はがねのれんきんじゅつし

# 鋼の錬金術師

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

荒川 弘

Hiromu Arakawa

13

GANGAN COMICS

# FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST™

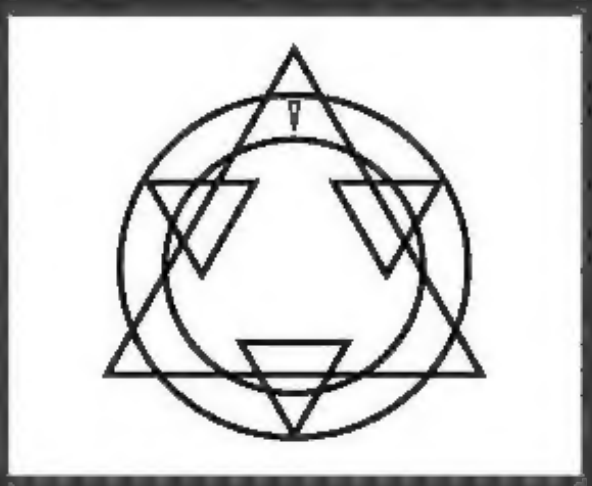
13

Story and art by
Hiromu Arakawa

When I give instructions to my assistants for the backgrounds, I usually stick a note on the art pages. But sometimes when I look over the memos that I wrote when I was half-asleep, I realize I wrote something crazy. So far the best ones include "Draw *Koshien* here!" and "Penguin Village goes here"!!

*—Hiromu Arakawa, 2005*

**translator's note: Koshien is the Japanese National High School baseball championship.*



Born in Hokkaido (northern Japan), Hiromu Arakawa first attracted national attention in 1999 with her award-winning manga *Stray Dog*. Her series *Fullmetal Alchemist* debuted in 2001 in Square Enix's monthly manga anthology *Shonen Gangan*.

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

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HIROMU ARAKAWA

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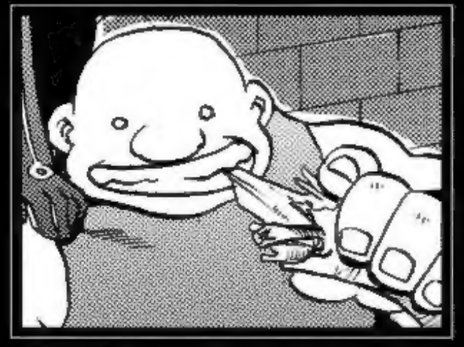
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

## CHARACTERS
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

□ ウィンリィ・ロックベル
Winry Rockbell

□ スカー
Scar



□ グラトニー
Gluttony

□ キング・ブラッドレイ
King Bradley

□ リン・ヤオ
Lin Yao

□ メイ・チャン
May Chang

□ アルフォンス・エルリック
Alphonse Elric

□ エドワード・エルリック
Edward Elric

□ アレックス・ルイ・アームストロング
Alex Louis Armstrong

□ ロイ・マスタング
Roy Mustang

## OUTLINE
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

Using a forbidden alchemical ritual, the Elric Brothers attempted to bring their dead mother back to life. But the ritual went wrong, consuming Edward Elric's leg and Alphonse Elric's entire body. At the cost of his arm, Edward was able to graft his brother's soul into a suit of armor. Equipped with mechanical "auto-mail" to replace his missing limbs, Edward becomes a state alchemist, serving the military on deadly missions. Now, the two brothers roam the world in search of the Philosopher's Stone, the legendary substance with the power to restore what they have lost…

The Elric brothers have redoubled their efforts, and together with Prince Lin of Xing and some help from Roy Mustang, they capture a live homunculus--Gluttony. But not even the bonds of an alchemist can hold Gluttony when he recognizes the one who killed his best friend Lust. Gluttony escapes, revealing his true monstrous form, just as Envy arrives to provide support. Meanwhile, Roy Mustang races towards his own destiny, returning to Central City military command with a scandalous secret about the Führer-President himself!

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HI !

BZT

FZT

BZSH

LONG TIME NO SEE, LITTLE FULL-METAL BOY!

DON'T...

...CALL...

...ME...

EH ?

THWACK

...LITTLE !!!

WHOA!

# Chapter 50
# In the Belly of the Beast

# FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

FWISH

!?

THAT'S *FIVE* TIMES !!!

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU, LITTLE BOY...

WAIT A SEC !!

ONCE NOW AND ONCE BEFORE MAKES *TWO*...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT !?

WH...

WHA...

WHAT AN AMAZ-ING MEM-ORY...

DON'T TELL *ME* THAT YOU *FORGOT* !!?

AND YOU CALLED ME "LITTLE" *THREE TIMES* AT LAB NO. 5!!

BAM

SLAP

MUWA HA HA HA!

BUT NOW, ENVY, I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE !!!

SCARY...

VOO

SH

AGH!!

DON'T PROVOKE HIM, BIG BROTHER !!

!

FSH

CRSH

WHERE IS HE!? I'LL EAT HIM! SWALLOW HIM UP!

MUSTANG! LUST'S KILLER!

GRRRMBLE

HUH ?

HUFF SNORT

HMM... BOY'S GOT A TEMPER.

ZOOP

B... BUT...

SOB SOB

HE KILLED LUST..

SNIFFLE SNIFFLE

ANYWAY, YOU CAN'T SWALLOW THE COLONEL.

I DIDN'T SEE HIM A- ROUND. MAYBE HE ALREADY ESCAPED.

SORRY. I JUST CAME TO PICK UP THIS GUY.

DID YOU WANT ME TO CAPTURE YOU TOO?

HMPH !

HEL- LO.

SO IT'S YOU AGAIN, XING BRAT.

THE FLAME COLONEL AND THE ELRIC BROTHERS ARE OFF LIMITS, BUT HELP YOURSELF TO PONYTAIL BOY OVER THERE.

YOU'RE HUNGRY RIGHT? JUST SWALLOW HIM WHOLE, STARTING WITH THE HEAD!

GLUT-TONY!

BUT AS LONG AS I'M HERE, I MIGHT JUST HAVE TO KILL YOU!

WHICH MEANS...

OKAY!

JUST THE XING BRAT. GOT IT?

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T SWALLOW THE BROTHERS.

I GUESS THERE'S SOME HOPE AFTER ALL.

THEY STILL WANT US ALIVE.

PLUS HE MADE GLUTTONY CALM DOWN A BIT.

THOOM

TAKE THAT !!

!!

HE'S ALL YOURS, LIN!!

...RRGH !!

FWISH-FWISH

UN-LIKE YOU...

THANKS. HE IS A WORTHY FOE.

YOU'VE GOT SKILLS, KIDDO. NOW I SEE HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO CROSS SWORDS WITH KING BRADLEY AND LIVE TO TELL THE TALE!

FWISH FWISH

FRU

SHUNK!

...WHO LEAVES HIS DEFENSES WIDE OPEN !!

SQUEEZE

YOU FELL FOR IT

!?

SLISH

WE BOTH KNOW I'D NEVER BEAT YOU MAN-TO-MAN...

...BUT THEN, *I'M NO MAN!* WHY LIMIT MYSELF BY FIGHTING LIKE ONE?

GICHI

GICHI

SQUEEE

SQUEEE

SQUEEE

A CLEVER GAMBIT. YOU TAKE THE HIT SO THAT YOU CAN GO FOR THE KILL.

SHING

OR WOULD YOU RATHER I SLICE YOU TO PIECES ?

HISSS!

..OR *BIT-TEN* TO DEATH ?

SO, WOULD YOU PREFER TO BE *CRUSHED* TO DEATH...

SHUFF

WELL... I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PARTIAL TO SLICING.

CRIK

CRIK

SQUEEE

SQUEEE

NNGH.

DROP

!!

FWIK

YA

M!!

GRAB

BAP

SLI

CE

THAT...

...WAS LOW..

THWAK

SLUMP

A DIRTY TRICK, KICKING SAND IN MY EYES...

WELL ?

LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE, I WON'T HURT YOU IF YOU SURRENDER QUIETLY.

AS A POSSIBLE HEIR, I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH ATTACKS FROM ASSASSINS ALL MY LIFE.

I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BECOME STRONG AND WILY.

ALL I WANT IS INFOR-MATION ABOUT THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE.

RISE

I WON'T ALLOW A MERE HUMAN TO LOOK DOWN ON ME!!

INSOLENT LITTLE TWERP!

...HOMUN-CULUS !!

NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATE HUMANS...

PLOP

HUH?

ALL RIGHT! WE GOT HIM !!

BZASH!

PHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE.

VOOM

HMPH !!

HOW FAR CAN THAT FREAK'S RIBCAGE STRETCH?

CLAP

WHAM

OWIE.

ROLL ROLL

KER POW

BWIP

YAAH!!

GO AWAY.

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

GWOOSH

I'M NOT ALLOWED TO EAT YOU.

I WANNA EAT THE XING GUY!

WHOA !!

GRAB

I GOT HIM !!

REACH

HUH?

GRAB

ER... NOW WHAT DO I DO WITH HIM!?

ALL RIGHT! NICE WORK, AL!!

SLAM

AA AAH !!

KRASH KRASH

OH...

FWOOSH

HUP

COME ON, YOU TWO! KEEP HIM BUSY LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO FINISH OFF THE OTHER...

SLI

GE

...GUY !!

GAH..

AAAA AAAH !!

BZZT

ZA

SHA

SHING

Y-
YOU
IDIOT
!

GWOOOM

HA HA!
HE
FROZE
UP!

FLINCH

!!

GET
HIM,
GLUTTONY
!!

WHAT
!?

HE'S
GONNA
SWALLOW
YOU!!

LIN
!!

WAIT...

I CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO SWALLOW THE HUMAN SACRIFICE !

BIG BROTHER !!

GNOO

100%

TH-

THU

D

KLATA

KREE

CRIK
CRIK

OOPS.

YOU...

BZZT

FIZZSH

BAM

I ATE THEM...

BLZT

EZZT

BIG BRO-THER !!

BRING HIM BACK !!

MY BIG BRO-THER !!

BIG BRO-THER !!

BIG BRO-THER !! LIN !!

FWT

I ATE THEM

FWT

FWT

TOO LATE.

BIG BR-

FWT

PLEASE BRING HIM BACK!!

WOOO

IF THE LIGHTS IN THOSE ROOMS ARE ON, THE NEIGHBORS WILL BECOME SUSPICIOUS.

THERE ARE OTHER EMPTY ROOMS IN THE HOUSE, BUT THEY HAVEN'T BEEN USED SINCE MY WIFE AND KIDS LEFT ME.

IT'S A SHABBY OLD MAN'S ROOM, BUT AT LEAST IT'S BETTER THAN THAT SHACK.

JUST HURRY UP AND GET BETTER.

FLUMP

I DID MY DUTY AS A DOCTOR, NOTHING MORE.

DON'T THANK ME.

OH... THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

YOU DON'T WANT YOUR WHERE-ABOUTS KNOWN, RIGHT ?

DON'T BE A FOOL !!

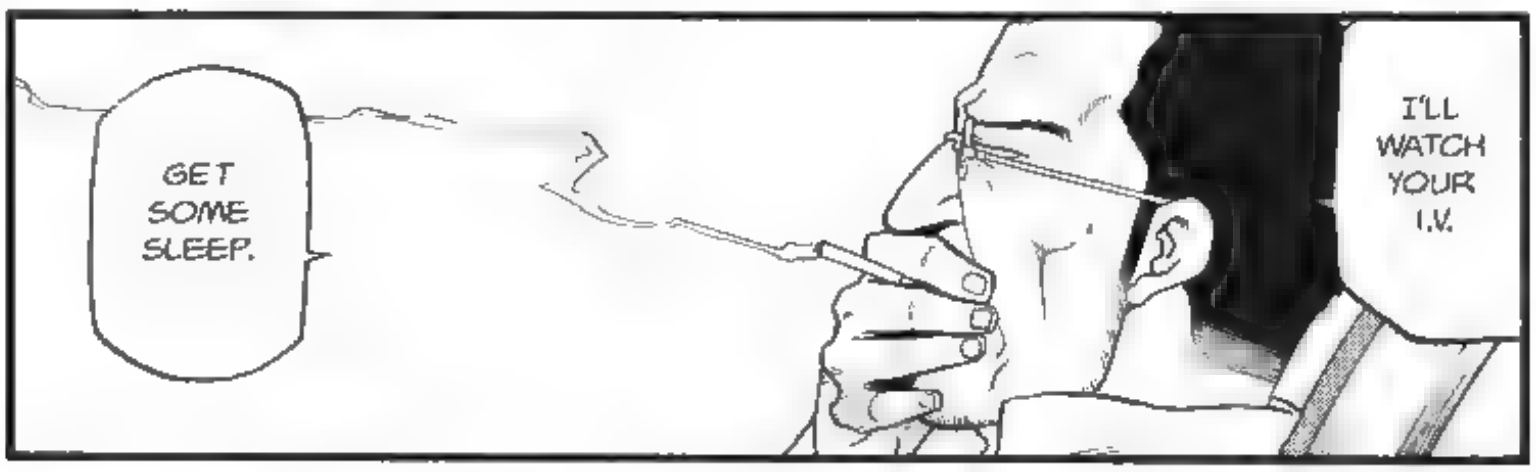
I MUST GO TO MY PRINCE...

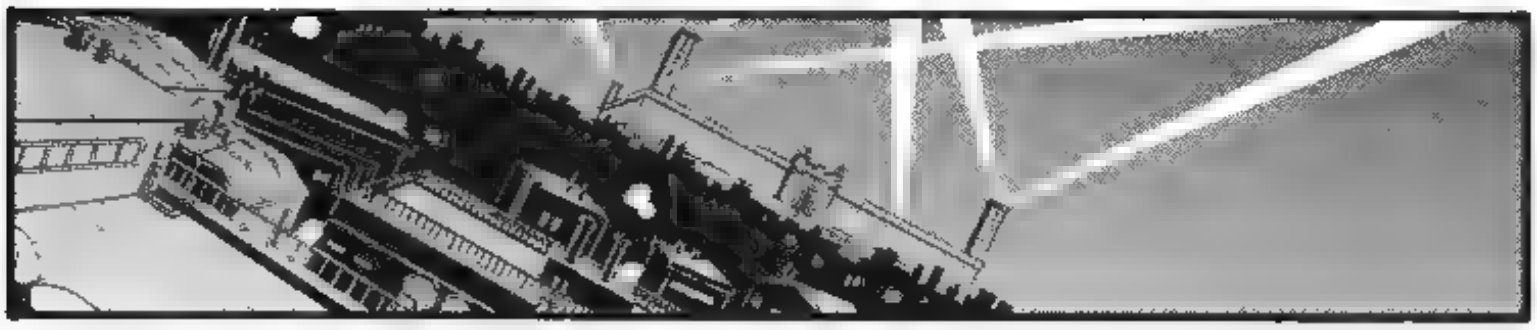
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE LYING DOWN...

WHAT CAN YOU DO IN YOUR CONDI-TION !?!

IT REALLY IS GONE...

MY ARM...


GET SOME SLEEP.
I'LL WATCH YOUR I.V.



FWIP
FIRST I NEED TO LEARN WHO MY ENEMIES ARE WITHIN CENTRAL HQ.

SNAP

WE MUST BE CAU-TIOUS.

THE ENEMY MIGHT ALREADY BE AWARE THAT I'VE COME INTO CONTACT WITH GLUTTONY.

TUG

MEANWHILE I'LL KEEP LOOKING FOR ALLIES ON THE OUTSIDE. AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, EVEN THOSE WHO ARE NEUTRAL WILL BE FORCED TO RISE UP WHEN THEY LEARN THAT THE HEAD OF THIS COUNTRY IS A HOMUNCULUS.

GRAB

I CAN'T FORCE THEIR HAND JUST YET. I'LL HAVE TO PLAY ALONG A WHILE LONGER.

IS THIS THE GATEWAY TO GLORY OR THE ENTRANCE TO HELL?

YES, SIR.

WAIT FOR ME HERE, LT.

WELL THEN,

SLAM

SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO ME, SAVE YOURSELF.

STP

NO, SIR.

I CAN'T OBEY THAT, SIR.

THAT'S AN ORDER

SIGH...

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONVIC-TIONS.

YOU CAN ALWAYS COURT-MARTIAL ME, SIR.

STUB-BORN, AREN'T YOU?

AN ORDER MUST BE OBEYED WHETHER YOU LIKE T OR NOT.

BEST OF LUCK TO YOU IN BATTLE SIR!

AS YOU WISH.

I'LL COME BACK FOR SURE, SO WAIT FOR ME.

YES, SIR !

NO, I CAN'T RUSH THINGS. AFTER ALL, I HAVEN'T EVEN CONFIRMED WITH MY OWN EYES THAT THE PRESIDENT IS A HOMUNCULUS...

SHOULD I START WITH THE GENERALS? THE FIELD OFFICERS ?

WHERE TO BEGIN...

I'M TALKING ABOUT OVERTHROWING THE FÜHRER-PRESIDENT !

WHO AM I FOOLING ?

HMM...

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

HUH ?

HOW'S IT GOING !?

HEY, MUSTANG !

SWAP!

NO, I WAS CALLED OUT HERE FOR AN URGENT MEETING.

ARE YOU STILL WORKING AT THIS LATE HOUR, GENERAL RAVEN?

UH.

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU WERE HOSPITALIZED UNTIL JUST THE OTHER DAY, WEREN'T YOU!?

HA HA HA HA

GUESS I DON'T KNOW MY OWN STRENGTH.

I'M AFRAID SO, SIR.

I WENT ON AN INSPECTION TOUR THIS AFTERNOON BUT IT TOOK LONGER THAN EXPECTED.

DON'T TELL ME THAT IN YOUR CONDITION, YOU'RE ALREADY PULLING LATE HOURS?

I GUESS I'M NOT USED TO TAKING THINGS SLOWLY, SIR.

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

HA HA HA HA! YOU'D BE WISE TO DO SO, COLONEL.

KLAK

..BUT I HAVE ***HIGH HOPES*** FOR YOU.

KLAK

KLAK

THERE ARE THOSE HERE IN CENTRAL CITY WHO DISLIKE YOU...

..THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR.

*MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AS MANY PEOPLE AROUND YOU AS POSSIBLE THAT UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT YOU.*

DO YOU KNOW LT. GENERAL GRUMMAN, SIR?

GRUMMAN FROM EASTERN HEADQUARTERS SAW A LOT OF POTENTIAL IN YOU TOO.

YES, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR. IT REALLY IS THE BOON-DOCKS.

OH, SORRY! I FORGOT THAT YOU'RE FROM THE EAST AREA, AREN'T YOU?

IT'S A SHAME TO WASTE HIS TALENTS IN THE EASTERN BOON-DOCKS...

HE'S A BIT ECCENTRIC TO BE SURE, BUT SHARP.

KLAK

IN-DEED. I FOUGHT ALONG-SIDE HIM ON THE BATTLE-FIELD A FEW TIMES.

KLAK

YES, SIR. AND TO DO MY PART TO KEEP THE PEACE

I SEE.. SO THAT'S WHY YOU GO ON SO MANY CITY INSPEC-TIONS.

AND AS A BUMPKIN I AM TRYING MY BEST TO FIT INTO THIS LUMINOUS CITY.

I SEE !

TELL ME, COLONEL, HAVE YOU HEARD ANY INTER-ESTING RUMORS LATELY?

WELL, SIR.. JUST RUMORS THAT ARE SO RIDI-CULOUS THAT THEY SOUND LIKE JOKES...

SOMETIMES THE KEY TO SOLVING A CASE CAN BE FOUND IN THE SEEMINGLY TRIVIAL GOSSIP THAT IS OFTEN HEARD IN TOWN.

AT LEAST, THIS WAS THE CASE IN THE EAST. DEALING WITH THE TERRORISTS AND THE LIKE...

DURING MY INSPEC-TIONS, I OFTEN CHAT ABOUT CURRENT EVENTS WITH THE CITIZENS.

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

...OR THAT APPARENTLY A MAN HAS BEEN SEEN AROUND TOWN WHO CANNOT BE KILLED...

FOR EXAMPLE, SCAR WAS SEEN FEEDING A STRAY CAT...

...OR THAT *PRESIDENT KING BRADLEY* IS REALLY A *HOMUN-CULUS*...

...SIR...

HA HA HA HA HA HA...

HA...

hmph

HA HA HA HA HA HA!

HA HA HA HA HA HA!

SIR ?

...

COME WITH ME.

WELL THAT KIND OF GOSSIP MIGHT BE A GOOD TOPIC FOR A TEATIME CHAT.

I'M NOT THE ONE WHO STARTED THIS RUMOR, SIR..

YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT TELLING JOKES.

BUT YOU STILL GET 10 POINTS!

THAT'S NOT FUNNY, MUSTANG.

LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

COLONEL MUSTANG JUST TOLD ME THE MOST FASCINATING STORY!

SHUT

GENTLEMEN !!

SIR! I WOULD BE COMPLETELY OUT OF PLACE! I--

COME IN.

OUR MEETING IS STILL IN RECESS.

KREEK

AH, YES. I RE-MEM-BER.

IT WAS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT BEING A ***HOMUN-CULUS.***

NOW, THE JOKE YOU JUST TOLD ME...

HOW DID IT GO ?

CON-
TINUE
YOUR
STORY.

STRIDE

YES,
COLONEL.
I'D
LOVE
TO
HEAR
THIS.

!

THIS IS WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT !

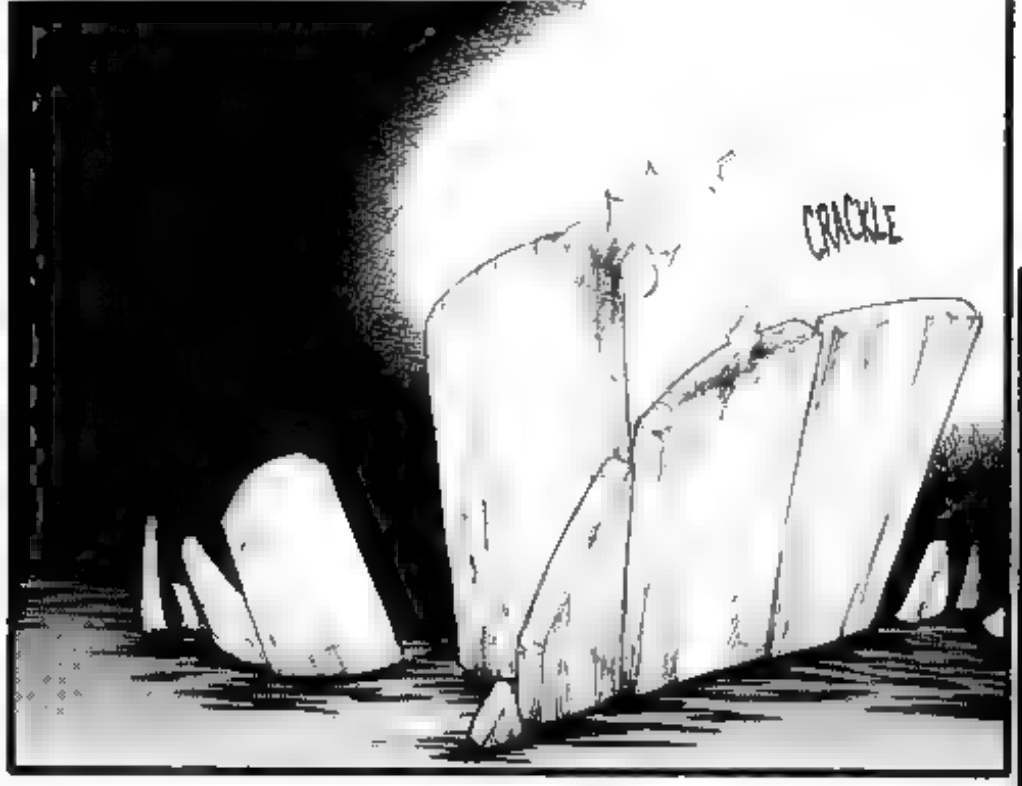
DO CONTINUE.

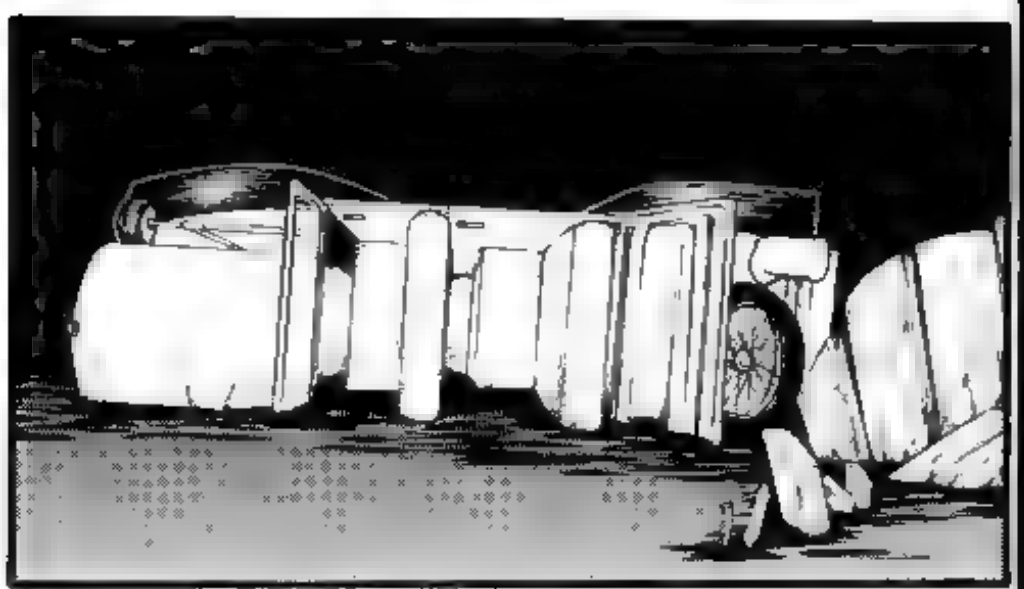
WHEN HE SAID THAT THE "MILITARY'S IN GRAVE DANGER," HE WASN'T TALKING ABOUT AN EXTERNAL THREAT...

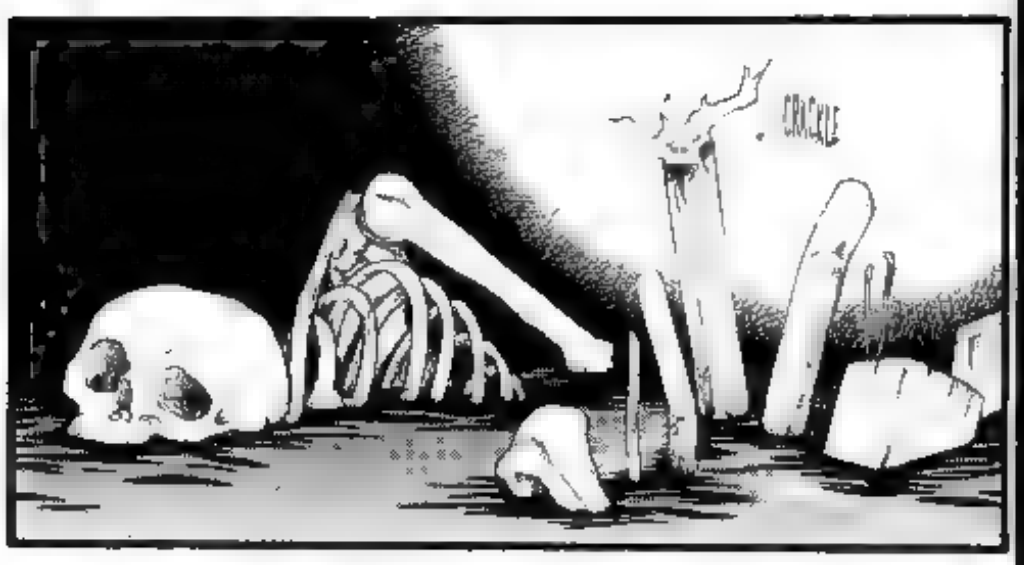
YES... NOW I UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU MEANT, HUGHES.

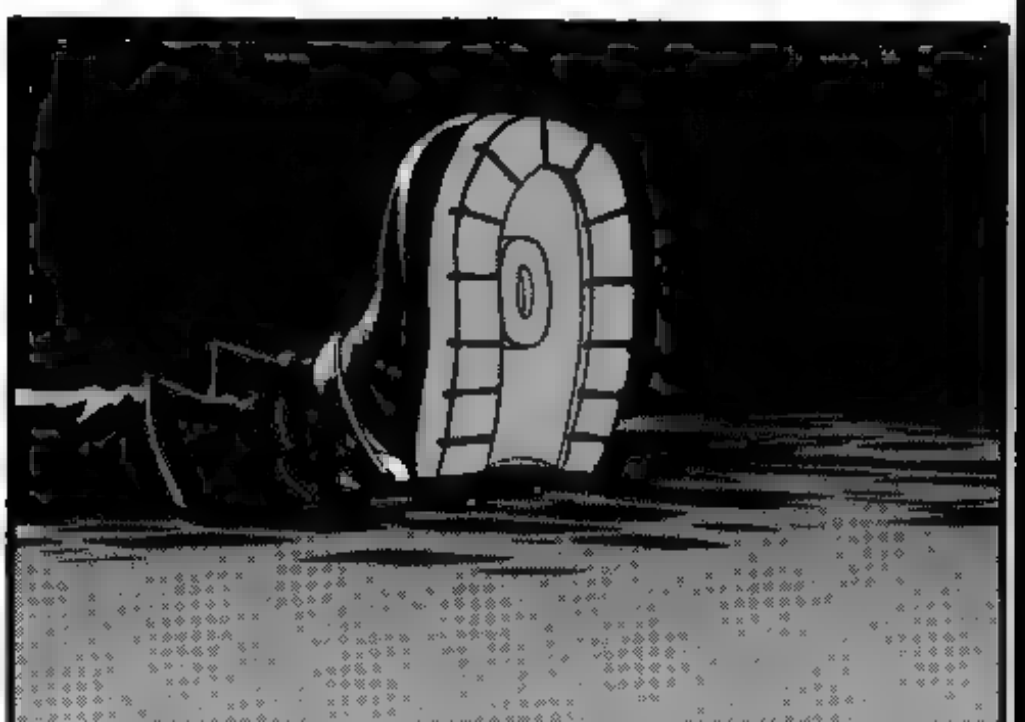
IS THERE A PROB-LEM ?

SO WHAT IF I AM A HOMUN-CULUS ?





CRACKLE

MY RIGHT HAND.

MOVES.

MY LEFT, TOO.

.....

SPLISH

EWW...

IT STINKS !

PISH

AND BOTH OF MY LEGS...

GOOD. MY WHOLE BODY'S OKAY.

WHY AM I IN THIS PLACE...?

GAGH

WHAT A FOUL STENCH.

...WE WERE *SWAL-LOWED.*

THAT'S RIGHT...

LIN AND I WERE ATTACKED BY GLUTTONY. AND THEN...

SPLISH

THIS STENCH.. I'VE SMELLED IT BEFORE.

...?

WHERE AM I !?

AL !?

IS THIS *BLOOD* !?

THE SMELL OF IRON...

SPLASH

WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?

ANY-BODY...

SLOSH SLOSH

HEY!! IS ANYONE HERE !?!

LIN !!

WHERE AM I!?

Chapter 51
A Portal In The
Darkness

SLOSH

HELLO !

IS ANYONE HERE !?

SLOSH

I BET GLUTTONY IS BEHIND THIS. IF HE'S HERE, HE'S GOT SOME EXPLAINING TO DO!

WHERE AM I!?

AL !?

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

AL !!

IDIOT PRINCE !!

GLUT-TONY !!

WHO ARE YOU CALLING AN IDIOT?

SLOSH SLOSH

HUH ?

FOR THE TIME BEING, YES.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

SLOSH

SLOSH

?

HOLD ON.

FREEZE

SLOSH

SLOSH

LIN!

THAT'S NO WAY TO SPEAK TO THE PRINCE OF A NATION!

OKAY, YOU'RE THE REAL LIN.

DO YOU WANT ME TO RECITE THE ENTIRE ROOM SERVICE MENU, TOP TO BOTTOM, FROM THE HOTEL THAT YOU GUYS WERE STAYING AT?

WHAT?

...YOU'RE NOT ENVY IN DISGUISE, ARE YOU?

OKAY, YOU'RE THE REAL THING.

WHO'RE YOU CALLING A LITTLE RUNT!?!

AND HOW DO I KNOW *YOU* AREN'T THE IMPOSTER, YOU LI--

NO MATTER HOW FAR I WENT, THERE WAS NO END TO IT.

...BUT IT WAS TOTAL DARK-NESS.

I DON'T KNOW.

NOW THAT WE'VE CLEARED THAT UP, WHERE ARE WE?

JUST NOW I TRIED WALKING IN THAT DIREC-TION...

I MADE IT FROM THE BONES AND DEBRIS THAT I FOUND.

AAA AAAH !! A HUMAN BONE !?

THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS! GIVE ME THE TORCH!

SNATCH

WHERE DID THIS FIRE COME FROM?

OPEN FLAME ?

IT'S A GOOD THING I FOUND AN OPEN FLAME.

I ALMOST LOST MY MIND WALKING AROUND IN THIS DARKNESS WITHOUT ANY LIGHT.

WHY DID WE END UP IN THIS PLACE!?

WERE WE REALLY SWALLOWED BY GLUTTONY!?

WAIT A SECOND... "SWAL-LOWED"?

CRACKLE

SO THE COLONEL TURNED OUT TO BE USEFUL AFTER ALL.

HA!

IT'S PROBABLY FROM WHEN GLUTTONY SWALLOWED THE COLONEL'S FLAME ATTACK.

BUT THERE'S NO WAY THAT THE INSIDE OF HIS STOMACH IS THIS BIG.

YEAH, I REMEM-BER THAT TOO.

ALL I KNOW IS THAT GLUTTONY DEFINITELY CHOMPED DOWN ON US BACK THERE.

I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TELL ME.

!

ARE WE REALLY INSIDE A STOM-ACH...?

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT ONE THING'S CLEAR. IF ENVY WANTED TO LET THAT THING SWALLOW ME, THIS CAN'T BE A VERY PLEASANT PLACE.

ISN'T THAT THE RUN-DOWN BUILDING WE WERE IN EARLIER?

LOOK THERE.

AND ISN'T THAT THE LT.'S CAR!?

YOU'RE RIGHT.

THIS IS...

SLOSH SLOSH SLOSH

?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?

A...

LIN, LOOK !

I JUST WISH...

...I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT US.

AND AL MUST BE WORRIED SICK...

IF IT'S JUST HIS HAND, THEN THAT MEANS..

AL'S HAND ?

I GUESS AL'S SAFE FOR NOW.

...THE REST OF HIS BODY ISN'T HERE.

YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

SLOSH SLOSH

RECEIVE MY SIGNAL, LITTLE BROTHER!!!

ELRIC TELEPATHY!!

NNNNGH!! POWER OF TELEPATHY, CONVENIENTLY AWAKEN WITHIN ME!!

NO.

I DON'T SENSE THE PRESENCE OF LIVING BEINGS, SO IT CAN'T BE OUTDOORS EITHER.

SLOSH SLOSH SLOSH

I DON'T SEE ANY STARS.

THIS CAN'T BE NIGHT-TIME, CAN IT?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

...BUT THEY'RE ALL FROM DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS.

IT'S STRANGE...

ALL THESE BUILDINGS AND HUMAN REMAINS FLOATING AROUND...

I DON'T CARE--I'M STILL GETTING OUT OF HERE!!

SLOSH

SLOSH

SLOSH

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THERE IS NO EXIT FROM THIS PLACE...

WHERE ?

.....

MAKE ONE... ?

MY MOTTO IS, "IF THERE'S NO EXIT, MAKE ONE!"

WHAT DO YOU THINK ?

HMM...

IF NOTHING ELSE, WE KNOW THERE'S A FLOOR !!

THE GROUND !!

LET'S SEE... THE COMPONENTS OF BLOOD ARE PROTEIN, FAT, UREA AND IRON...

CLAP!

LET ME SEE IF I CAN AT LEAST PUT A HOLE IN IT.

THIS IS LESS LIKE DIRT AND MORE LIKE CLOTTED BLOOD.

RUB RUB

BZAP!

GIMME THE TORCH.

BAM!

Toss

...

I DIDN'T HEAR IT HIT THE BOT-TOM...

SPLISH SPLASH SPLISH SPLASH

YEAH, LET'S DO THAT !!

LET'S FIND A WALL !!

A WALL !!

XIAO MEI!

XIAO MEI, WHERE ARE YOU!?

SLOSH SLOSH

COME ON! NO MATTER HOW BIG THIS PLACE IS, IF WE KEEP WALKING STRAIGHT AHEAD WE'RE BOUND TO REACH ITS EDGE!!

SIGH

KEEP MOV-ING !!

I HAVEN'T SEEN IT.

THAT BLACK AND WHITE CAT?

MR. YOKI, HAS SHE COME BACK YET?

XIAO MEI...

GUSH

AAAAH !!! JUST KIDDING !!! I'M SORRY !!!

WHERE'S ALL THAT COMING FROM?!

A WILD...

WHERE ARE YOU, XIAO MEI?

MAYBE IT GOT EATEN BY A WILD DOG.

WE'VE BEEN LIKE SISTERS EVER SINCE.

BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T GROW, THE OTHER PANDAS ABANDONED HER. SO I DECIDED TO TAKE HER WITH ME.

CRACKLE

XIAO MEI ISN'T A CAT. SHE'S A PANDA THAT HAD A DISEASE AS A CUB THAT STUNTED HER GROWTH.

MY FAMILY...

...THE CHANG CLAN, IS A LOW-RANKING HOUSE THAT HAS ALMOST NO POWER WITHIN THE FIFTY CLANS OF THE XING EMPIRE.

...SHE'S BECOME AN IRRE-PLACEABLE PRESENCE IN MY LIFE.

BUT BECAUSE WE WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TOGETHER...

IN THE BEGINNING IT MIGHT HAVE JUST BEEN PITY...

...WE WERE DRAWN TO ONE ANOTHER. WE'RE BOTH SO POWER-LESS.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY...

CHOMP

NO!

I DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE ENDURED EVERYTHING I'VE GONE THROUGH IF SHE WEREN'T THERE WITH ME.

TO OBTAIN THE SECRET TO IMMOR-TALITY !!

WHAT COULD BE SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU WOULD RISK YOUR LIFE TO COME TO THIS COUNTRY?

YES! THE DESERT CROS-SING.

LIKE CROSSING THE DESERT. I WAS ONLY ABLE TO MAKE IT BECAUSE I HAD HER.

IM-
MOR-
?

XIAO
MEI...

UNLESS I
BRING BACK
THE METHOD
TO ATTAINING
IMMORTALITY
AND GAIN THE
FAVOR OF THE
EMPEROR,
MY CLAN
WILL SURELY
PERISH.

EVEN IF IT
MIGHT COST ME
MY LIFE, I
WASN'T AFRAID.
NOT AS LONG
AS XIAO MEI
WAS WITH ME...

CLENCH

WAAAAAAH!

COME
ON,
STOP
CRYING.
PLEASE
!

HEY
!!

GUSH

XIAO
MEIII...

YOU'LL GET
DEHYDRATED

...WERE WIPED OUT IN A CIVIL WAR.

HIS PEOPLE, THE ISHBA-LANS...

I THINK HE CAN IDENTIFY WITH YOUR CONCERN FOR THE FATE OF YOUR CLAN

OH...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

AREN'T YOU COMING?

YES! I'M COMING, MR. YOKI'S SERVANT!!

HUH? THEN MAY I ASK YOU YOUR NAME?

..DON'T CALL ME A "SER-VANT."

TUP

TUP

TUP

TUP

TUP

I NEVER TELL ANY-ONE MY NAME.

CALL ME WHAT-EVER YOU LIKE.

THEN HOW ABOUT MR. X?

NO, NOT THAT EI-THER.

HUH!? THEN UM. UM. UH.

STRIDE

IF YOU'RE GOING TO FIND THIS XIAO MEI OF YOURS, IT'S BETTER TO SEARCH NOW WHEN THERE ARE ONLY A FEW GUARDS.

SIR ?

THERE'S STILL TIME BEFORE SUN-RISE.

I'M REPAYING YOU FOR HEALING MY LEG.

YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME?

WELL...

SHUFFLE

HE HAS A SCARY FACE BUT HE'S A GOOD PERSON, ISN'T HE?

BLAM!

BLAM!

THERE'S NO ECHO FROM ANY DIRECTION. NOT RIGHT OR LEFT, UP OR DOWN.

THIS CAN'T BE! HOW BIG IS THIS PLACE !?!

SILENCE

BLAM

SLOSH
SLOSH
SLOSH
WHEEZE
HUFF
PANT
HUFF
HUFF
HANG IN THERE...
THERE... MUST BE AN EXIT... SOME-WHERE...
HUFF
WHEEZE
TRUDG-ING THROUGH A SEA OF BLOOD...
...MAKES IT EVEN MORE... TIRING...
SLOSH
HOW MANY HOURS HAVE WE BEEN WALKING NOW?
WHO KNOWS?
SLOSH
SLASH
AH
OH NO... I NEED TO GO FIX THE DAMAGE I CAUSED DURING OUR BATTLE WITH SCAR..
HUFF
PANT
YEAH. A BIG MEAL AND A NICE LONG NAP...
HUFF
HUFF
THE FIRST THING I'M GOING TO DO WHEN I GET OUT OF HERE IS EAT.
I'M STARV-ED...
HUFF
LIN !?
THIS IS NO TIME TO GIVE IN TO YOUR STOMACH !
I'M TOO.. HUN-GRY...
GIVING UP ALREADY? HOW PATHETIC.
I... CAN'T GO... ANY FUR-THER..

KUH ?

GO ON... ...WITH-OUT ME...

GET UP !

GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF !

KOBA!! KOBA!!

WALK !

I'M NOT ABOUT TO DIE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!!

SLOSH

SLOSH

FINE, THEN! MAYBE I ***WILL*** GO ON BY MYSELF!!

*TCH!!* YOU HAVE NO SPINE !!

GO ON... AHEAD..BY YOURSELF...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME...

I'M LEAV-ING YOU THERE !!

SERI-OUSLY! I'M NOT KID-DING !!

I REALLY AM GOING, YOU KNOW !!

HUP!

RRR?
RRA?
AGH
HH!

SPLOOOSH!

HUFF

HUFF

BUT...

...YOU HAVE PEOPLE WAITING FOR YOU TOO, RIGHT?

SNORT

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DYING HERE WITH YOU!

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE WAITING FOR ME TO COME BACK!

...I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO GO ON BY YOURSELF?

SLOSH

SLOSH

..TRY TO WALK..

CLNK

HUFF

IF YOU... STILL HAVE THE STRENGTH... TO TALK... THEN...

HUFF

SLOSH

HUFF

HUFF

WHEEZE

HUFF

HMPH..

SPLASH

OOF!

WE CAN'T EVEN FIND THE EXIT... THIS IS TRULY...A DEATH MARCH...

HUFF

WHEEZE WHEEZE

HUFF

HUFF

SLOGGING THROUGH THIS SEA OF BLOOD... HAS TAKEN THE ENERGY RIGHT OUT OF ME...

YOU KNOW SOME-THING, LIN?

HUH ?

DRIP

I'M HUN-GRY..

IF ONLY WE HAD SOME *FOOD*..

LEATHER GOODS ARE EDIBLE.

AND WATER. I CAN TRANS-MUTE FROM SOME OF THIS BLOOD. GOOD.

HEY !

..HEY.

I'LL JUST TRANSMUTE ONE FROM ONE OF THESE RANDOM OBJECTS..

OH! BUT WE DON'T HAVE A POT.

BZZT

EDWARD ELRIC JUST CARVED HIS NAME INTO THE HISTORY OF XING!

REALLY ? THAT'S GREAT

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN I BECOME THE EMPEROR I'LL SLANDER YOU IN THE PAGES OF XING HISTORY AS THE "MAN WHO FED A SHOE TO THE EMPEROR"

HOLD ON.. A *SHOE* ?

THERE WAS A SCENE OF A SHOE BEING BOILED AND EATEN...

I SAW IT IN A MOVIE WHEN I WAS A KID..

THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE TRAPPED HERE IS BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO PROTECT ME.

FOR WHAT?

I'M SORRY.

...

BUT AT LEAST WE'RE STILL HEALTHY AND CAN KEEP LOOKING FOR THE EXIT.

I DON'T LIKE THE FACT THAT I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE...

WHAT KIND OF CHILD-HOOD DID YOU HAVE...?

RATS! MY AUTO-MAIL'S ALL RUSTED UP

THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT I ENDURED DURING MY APPRENTICE-SHIP AS A KID.

NO BIG DEAL.

SO I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE PESSI-MISTIC.

IF I EVEN ***THINK*** ABOUT GIVING UP I'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH AL'S IRON FIST AND HIS YELLING.

I'M NOT AN OPTIMIST. I'M JUST ***STUB-BORN***, THAT'S ALL.

YOU'RE QUITE THE OPTI-MIST.

SIGH... I GUESS ALL WE CAN DO IS KEEP WALKING.

LET'S GO.

ALL RIGHT, BREAK TIME IS OVER.

WHAT'S WRONG ?

?

WAIT, ED.

SPLISH

MY, MY... I SAW THE LIGHT AND WAS WONDERING WHO IT WAS.

SLOSH

SLOSH

SOMETHING'S COMING !

SLOSH

SLOSH

IT'S...

JOLT

I'LL DO ANYTHING, JUST TELL US WHERE THE EXIT IS!!

IT'S ENVY !

YOU'LL SELL OUT JUST LIKE THAT!?

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT'D BE YOU.

...

SHUT UP!! BEING HUMAN IS ALL ABOUT SURVIVAL !!

THE DRIVE TO SURVIVE IS ADMIRABLE, BUT AT *ANY* COST?!

OF COURSE!! I'LL SELL MY SOUL TO THE ENEMY IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO SURVIVE!!

GLUTTONY WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO SWALLOW THE XING BRAT, NOT ME AND FULLMETAL.

AW, GEEZE... WHAT A MESS.

WHAT !?

THERE IS NO EXIT.

...I HAD A FAMILIAR FEELING...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THE MOMENT WHEN GLUTTONY SWAL-LOWED ME...

LITTLE FULLMETAL... I MEAN MR. ALCHEMIST, HAVEN'T YOU ALREADY GUESSED WHERE WE ARE?

WE ARE INSIDE HIS STOMACH, BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE'RE NOT.

SWALLOW? THEN WE *ARE* INSIDE GLUTTONY'S STOMACH AFTER ALL!?

...GOT THAT IN ONE TO PUK...

...

ENVY LET HIMSELF GET SWA-LLOWED TOO?

HOW LAME.

AFTER ALL, *IT'S* ~~HAPPENED~~ *TO YOU BEFORE.*

YOU *REMEM-BER* DON'T YOU?

...?

?

BUT...THAT PLACE WASN'T DARK OR FILLED WITH A SEA OF BLOOD!!

?

THE PORTAL... WAS WITHIN A PURE WHITE SPACE.

THE PORTAL OF TRUTH !!

HMM... SO THAT'S WHAT THE REAL PLACE IS LIKE.

"THE REAL PLACE" !?

HEY, WHAT IS THIS "PORTAL OF TRUTH" ?

THIS IS...

OR RATHER, **GLUTTONY** IS AN **ARTIFICIAL PORTAL OF TRUTH** CREATED BY FATHER.

GLUTTONY IS THE RESULT OF A FAILED EXPERI-MENT.

EVEN WITH FATHER'S CONSIDERABLE POWER, HE COULDN'T CREATE A NEW PORTAL.

THIS IS A PLACE...

...THAT EXISTS BETWEEN *REALITY* AND *TRUTH.*

THERE IS NO EXIT. NO WAY TO LEAVE.

***WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SIT HERE AND DIE!!***

NO ONE CAN GET OUT OF HERE.

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR US IS TO RUN OUT OF STRENGTH AND WAIT FOR OUR LIVES TO END!

YOU'RE LYING!!

THAT CAN'T BE TRUE !!

SAY SOME-THING, ENVY !!

TELL US THAT YOU'RE LYING!! PLEASE !!

IT CAN'T BE TRUE...

IF I DIE, WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO AL?

WE... WE MADE A PROMISE !!

THERE'S NO EXIT...

WE'RE GOING TO DIE HERE...?

IS IT PRESI-DENT BRAD-LEY?

WHO IS THIS "FATHER" OF YOURS WHO WANTS A PORTAL SO BADLY THAT HE WOULD TRY TO CREATE ONE?

I WANT ANSWERS !

...AND NEEDING SOME-ONE TO OPEN IT.

YOU PEOPLE KEEP TALKING ABOUT THE PORTAL...

HE CALLED HIM A BRAT...

THEN THE PRESIDENT IS ALSO AN ARTIFICIAL HUMAN, ISN'T HE?

HAH !

HOW CAN A BRAT LIKE HIM BE OUR FATHER !?

BRAD-LEY ?

PHILOS-OPHER STONES MADE FROM HUMAN LIVES...

HOMUN-CULI...

LAB NUM-BER FIVE...

IF THE PRESIDENT IS INVOLVED, THE ISHBAL WAR MUST HAVE SOME-THING TO DO WITH IT TOO, RIGHT?

THIS IS BAD.

UH-HJH.

HA HA HA!

THERE'S NEVER BEEN SUCH A BRILLIANT CIVIL WAR!

ISH-BAL I

A MILITARY OFFICER ACCIDENTALLY SHOT AN ISHBALAN CHILD..

?

EX-ACTLY !!

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT TRIGGERED THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR!?

I WATCHED AS THE CARNAGE OF WAR RIPPLED OUTWARD UNTIL IT CONSUMED THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL!

WITH A SINGLE BULLET...

I, ENVY...

IT WAS VERY AMUSING !!

HUMANS ARE SUCH EASY CREATURES TO MANIPULATE!

THE FOOL FACED A MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR WHAT I DID!

WHEN I DID THE SHOOTING, I DISGUISED MYSELF AS AN OFFICER WHO HAD BEEN AGAINST THE MILITARY'S INVOLVEMENT IN ISHBAL.

OH, AND BY THE WAY...

...AM THE ONE WHO SHOT AND KILLED THAT CHILD!!

SLOSH
SLOSH
SLOSH
SO IT WAS YOU.
*YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO SHOT AND KILLED THAT INNOCENT CHILD. *YOU* CAUSED THE CIVIL WAR.
HA HA HA
I WAS ABLE TO START A CIVIL WAR AND ELIMINATE THE OPPOSITION IN ONE FELL SWOOP. HOW'S THAT FOR KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!?
HA HA HA
SLOSH
SLOSH
*YOU* CAUSED A KILLER LIKE SCAR TO BE BORN.
*YOU* TURNED THE ISH-BALANS INTO REFU-GEES.
SLOSH SLOSH
*YOU* LEFT THE EAST AREA IN RUINS... MY HOME-TOWN.
SLOSH
SLOSH
THE WAR THAT TOOK THE LIVES OF WINRY'S PARENTS...
THE...

YOU'RE TO BLAME !!!

THW

AGK

WHAT...?

IT DIDN'T HAVE ANY EFFECT ON HIM...

TWITCH TWITCH

DO YOU WANNA FIGHT, LITTLE BRATS?

WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE HERE ANYWAY.

ED, BACK UP!

WHEN WE FOUGHT ENVY IN THE FOREST DID YOU HAPPEN TO LOOK DOWN AT THE GROUND NEAR HIS FEET?

ZWRRK

NO.

AS A PARTING GIFT, I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING.

SHWK

SHWK

SHWRR

SHWK

SHWK

SO THAT MEANS...

SHWK SHWK SHWK

AND WHEN WE FOUGHT HIM IN THE CITY THE ONLY PARTS OF THE IRON FENCE THAT WERE BROKEN WERE THE ONES THAT HE LANDED ON.

IT WAS REALLY SUNKEN IN.

SHA

BE CARE-FUL.

IT MEANS THAT DESPITE HIS SIZE, HE WEIGHS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT.

RAK

SHWK SHWK ...

SHK ...

SHWK SHK ...HUGE... SHWK

SHWK HIS REAL BODY MUST BE... SHWK SHWK

ROOOO O AAR

ZLAA ASH

DRIP

WOAL

HOW IS THAT THING AN ARTIFICIAL "HUMAN" ?

WHAT THE HECK IS IT !?!

SHLORP

MY...

MY...

MY TRUE...

VLP

GLURP

THIS...

THIS IS...

SLAM

...FORM.

SURGE

MY TRUE FORM.

GR AB

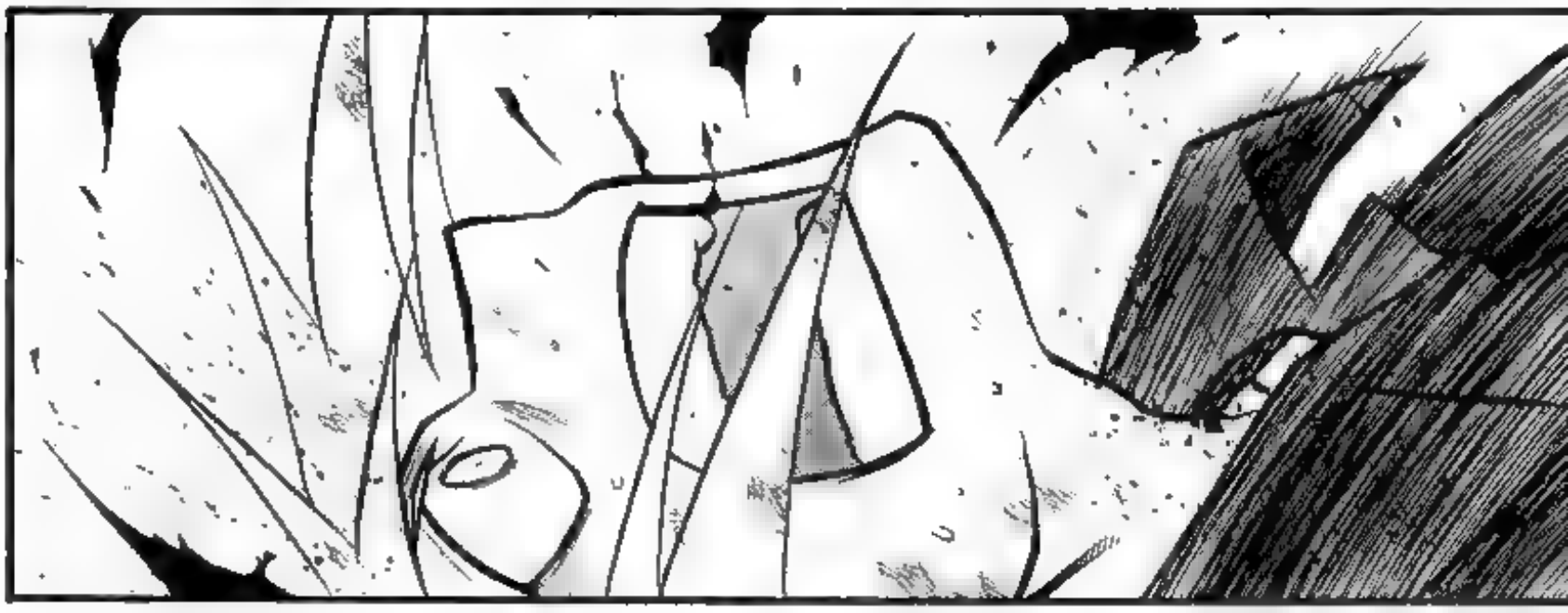
NNGH!!

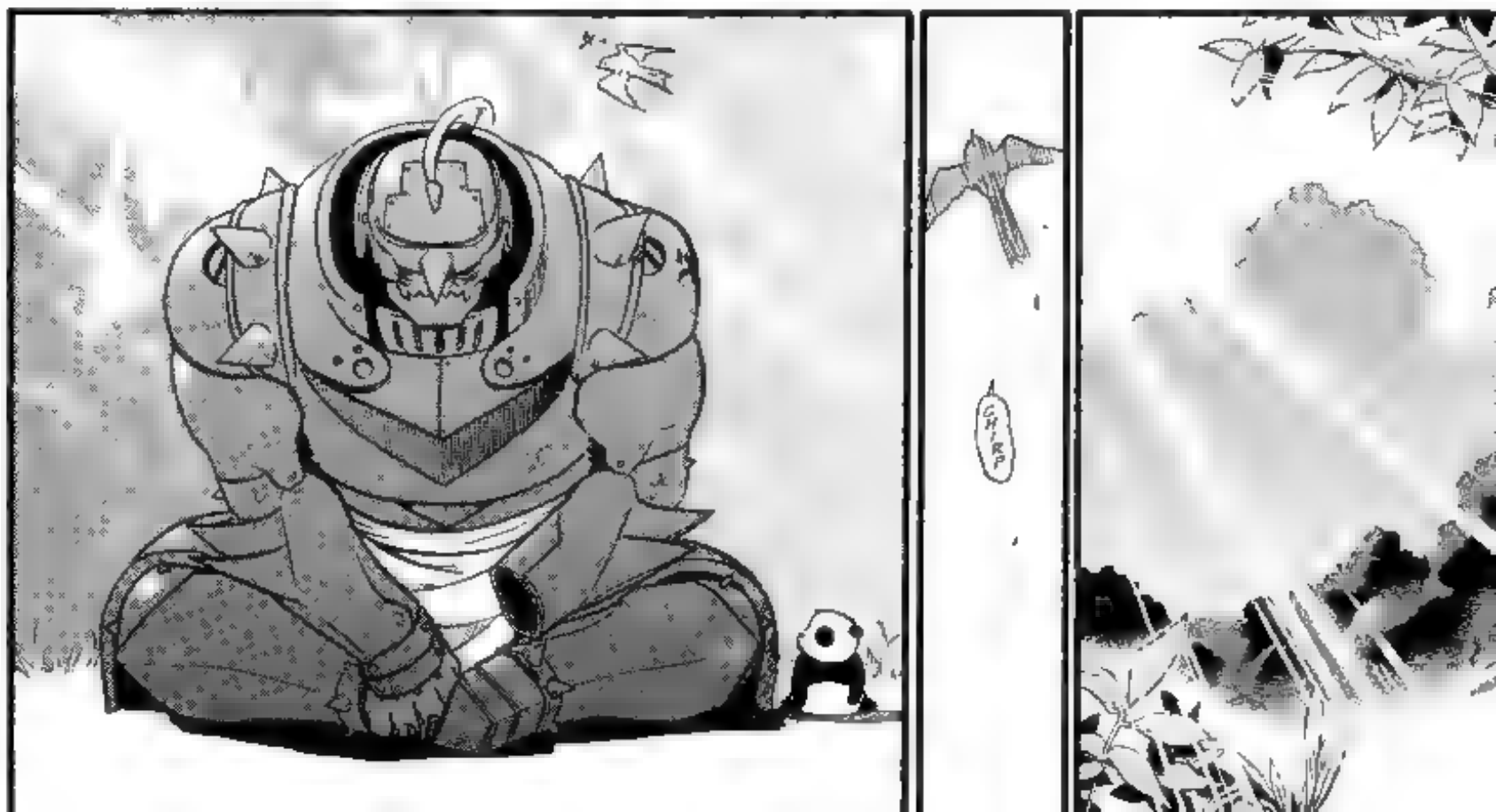
SLA AAM

OK

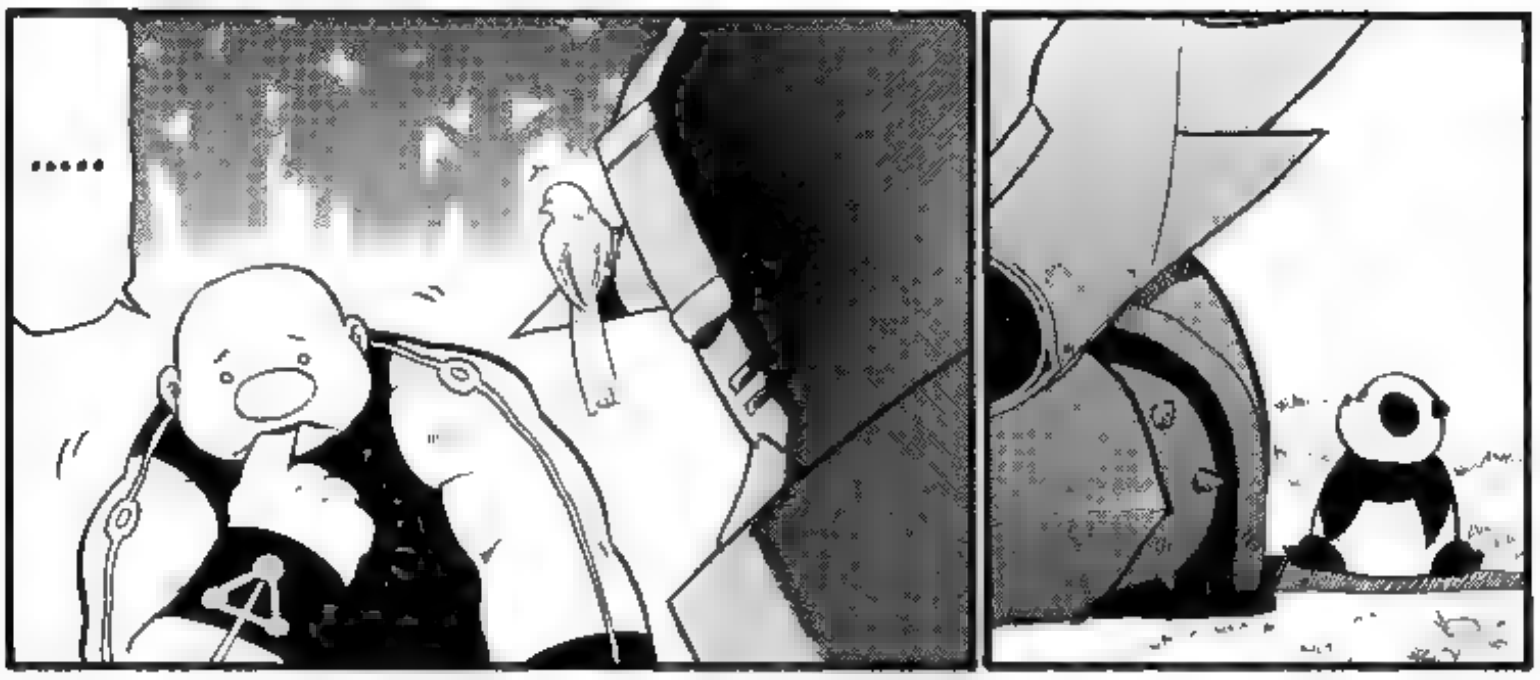
LIN !

DON'T...
LOOK...
AT ME !!




GHIRP

SNIP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WHAT SHOULD I DO ?
AND I SWAL-LOWED ENVY.
I SWAL-LOWED THE HUMAN SACRI-FICE.

.I DON'T KNOW.

...

FATHER'S GONNA BE *MAD*...

THE PERSON WHO *MADE* THE HOMUN-CULI ?

UH-HUH.

YOU HAVE A FATHER ?

UH-HUH.

YOUR... *FA-THER* ?

?
?
WHERE'S ALL THE STUFF IT SWALLOWS GOING TO, ANYWAY !?
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
AFTER ALL, SOMEONE CREATED THE HOMUNCULI.
THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF TRICK TO IT.
I DON'T KNOW THAT BIG BROTHER'S DEAD...
THAT'S RIGHT !
DON'T BE INDECISIVE! DON'T STOP THINKING! AND DON'T GIVE UP ON LIFE!!
IT'S JUST LIKE THE COL-ONEL SAID--
GLUT-TONY !!
I CAN'T GIVE UP ON HIM NOW!
KLANG KLANG
WE PROMISED EACH OTHER THAT WE'D GET OUR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK TOGETHER !!
GET IT TOGETH-ER!

TAKE ME TO YOUR FATHER !!

TAKE ME THERE !!

"DON'T GIVE UP !!"

HMM!!

DID YOU OPEN THE PORTAL?

UH-HUH. I OPENED IT.

IF I TAKE YOU THERE, WILL FATHER BE HAPPY?

HE'LL BE HAPPY. HE'LL BE ***REALLY*** HAPPY.

TAKE ME TO HIM.

TAKE ME TO WHERE YOUR FATHER IS!!

# Chapter 52
# Lord Of The Demon's Lair

BRIGADIER GENERAL GRAND'S MURDER BY SCAR LEAVES US SOMEWHAT SHORT OF PERSONNEL, BUT IT IS ACTUALLY QUITE FORTUITOUS.

GRIN

IF THE REMAINS OF THE HUMAN EXPERIMENTATIONS ARE DISCOVERED, WE CAN PLACE ALL OF THE BLAME ON HIM.

TRUE.

AFTER ALL, HE WAS IN CHARGE OF LABORATORY NUMBER FIVE, EVEN IF IT WAS BY TITLE ONLY.

AND WHAT ABOUT DR. MARCOH?

HE SHOULD ALMOST BE...

RIGHT NOW THE ONLY SURE CANDIDATES WE HAVE ARE THE ELRIC BROTHERS.

BUT WHAT OF THE HUMAN SACRIFICE? HAVE WE FOUND ANY NEW CANDIDATES?

NO. HE DOESN'T POSSESS THE NERVE NEEDED TO OPEN THE PORTAL.

WHAT ABOUT *KIMBLY*?

WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOME TEA?

IT ISN'T POI-SONED, I ASSURE YOU.

NO, THANK YOU.

TO MAKE YOU REALIZE HOW DEEP THE WATERS ARE YOU'VE BEEN SWIMMING IN.

WHY DO YOU BOTHER TO KEEP ME ALIVE, KNOWING WHAT I KNOW?

THIS PLOT HAS BEEN IN PLACE SINCE THE BIRTH OF THIS NATION.

HOW LONG HAS THE MILITARY BEEN BOWING ITS HEAD TO THE HOMUN-CULI?

HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON?

AT COMMODORE HUGHES'S FUNERAL, YOUR HANDS WERE TREMBLING.

WAS THAT JUST AN ACT?

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN HAVING QUITE A LAUGH, WATCHING US STRUGGLE ALL THIS TIME.

HUGHES'S CHILD... WHAT WAS HER NAME...?

SHE MADE AN UNBE-LIEVABLE RACKET DURING THE FUNERAL.

FROM THE MINUTE HE DONNED THE UNIFORM, HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT HE WAS DRESSING FOR HIS OWN FUNERAL.

WHY MUST EVERYONE MAKE SUCH A FUSS OVER THE DEATH OF ONE SOLDIER?

MY FISTS WERE TREMBLING WITH *ANGER*.

SO HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH A THING !?

YOU HAVE A CHILD YOUR-SELF.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE FOUND OUT THAT THE FATHER HE IDOLIZES IS A ***HOMUN-CULUS?***

...HE'S A GOOD BOY.

***MY*** CHILD..?

YOU MEAN SEL M.

***HE*** COULD NEVER BE MY ***WEAK POINT.***

IS THAT A THREAT?

HOW FUTILE.

YOU SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT YOURSELF...

...COLONEL ROY MUSTANG.

YOUR OWNER STILL HASN'T COME TO PICK YOU UP, HUH?

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

HOPE NOTHING~

LICK LICK LICK

LICK LICK LICK

I HOPE LT. HAWKEYE'S ALL RIGHT.

THEY'RE FROM THE PERSONNEL AFFAIRS BUREAU.

YES ?

MASTER SGT. FUERY !

...?

HUH ?

LT. HAWKEYE !!

WHAT !?

THE COLONEL PAID A VISIT TO MILITARY COMMAND LAST NIGHT AND HASN'T COME OUT SINCE.

TH-THEY TOLD ME THAT YOU'D BE HERE.

YOU TELL *ME* WHAT'S GOING ON!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MASTER SGT.?

LT....

I...

LAST NIGHT I RECEIVED A COMMUN-IQUE FROM THE PERSONNEL AFFAIRS BUREAU.

DID HE AT LEAST SEND WORD OF HIS STATUS !?

NONE.

WHAT !?

AND I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE BEING REASSIGNED.

I'VE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE SOUTH AREA HQ.

AND WARRANT OFFICER FALMAN IS BEING MOVED TO NORTH.

2ND LT. BREDA WAS TRANSFERRED TO WEST AREA HQ.

...!!

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

NO, I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY-THING...

HAVE THEY CONTACTED YOU YET!?

SNAP

!

PER-SONNEL AFFAIRS !?

!

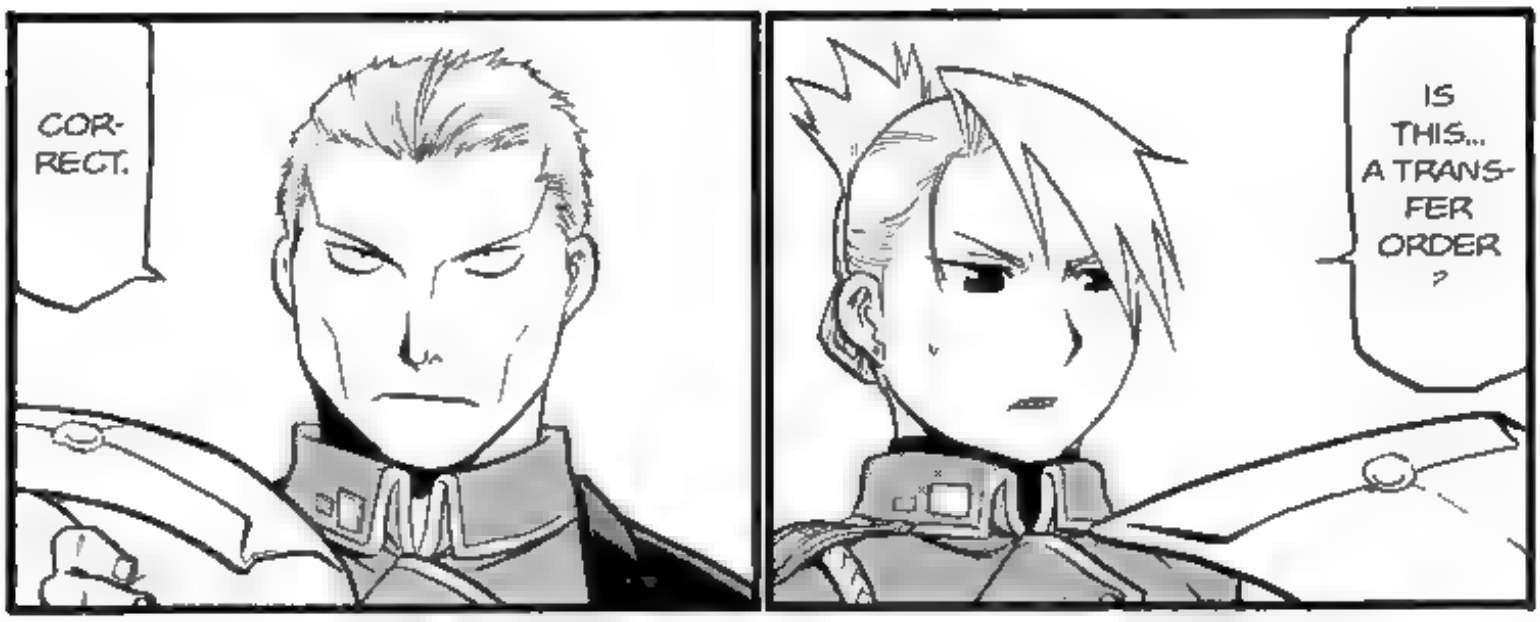
YES, SIR.

YOU'RE LIEU-TENANT HAWK-EYE, YES?

I'M YAKOVLEV FROM PERSON-NEL AFFAIRS.

WE'RE HERE TO DELIVER THIS TO YOU.

AND I AM STORCH, THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL SECRETARY.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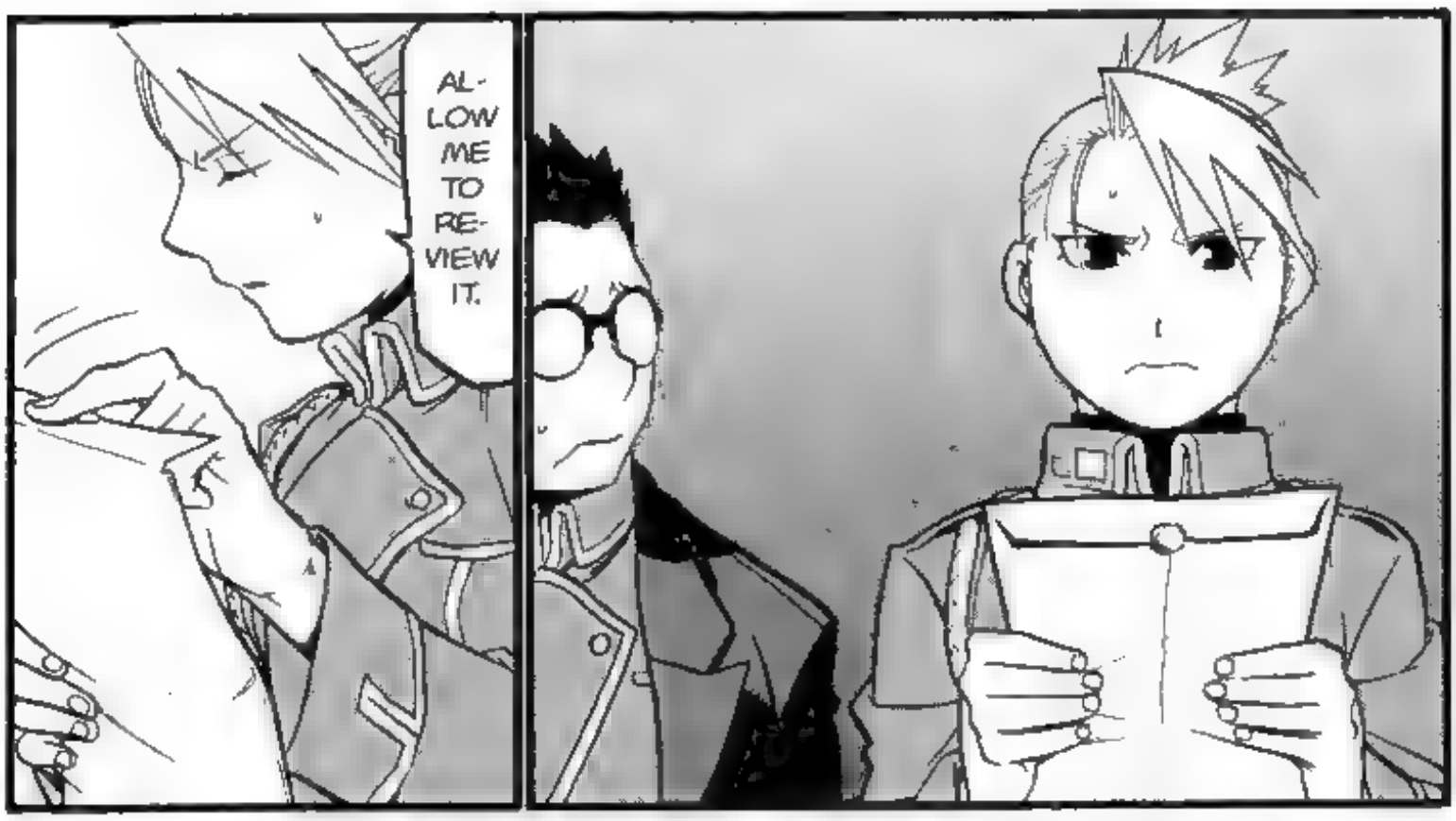
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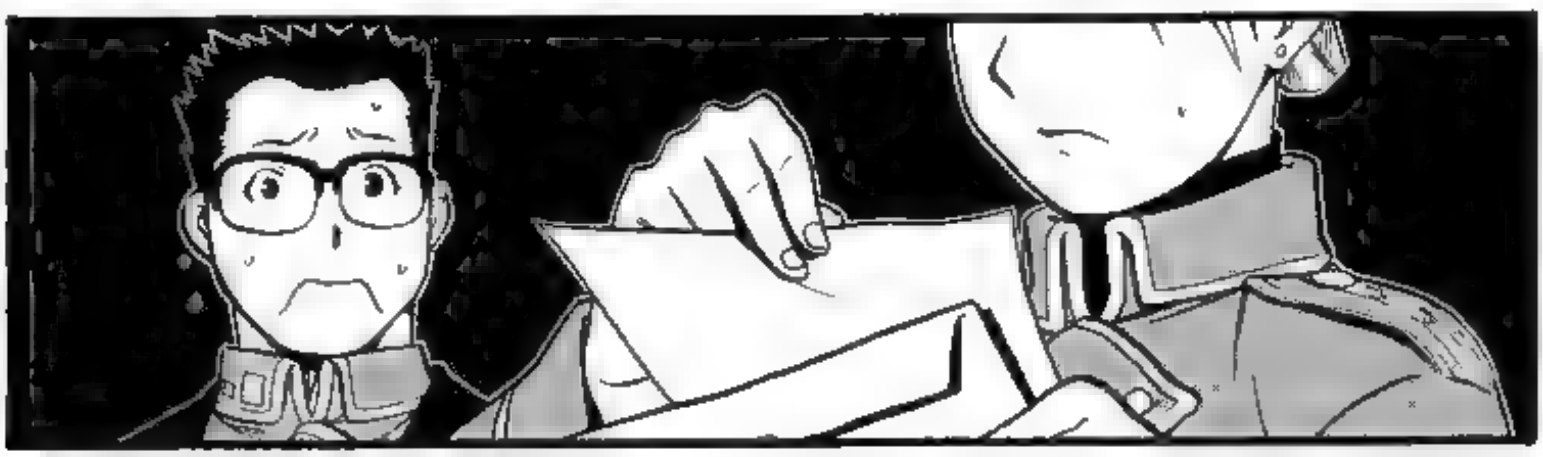


THIS CAN'T BE !!

I'M AFRAID YOU CAN-NOT RE-FUSE.
WHAT KIND OF ORDERS ARE THESE!?

"LT. RIZA HAWK-EYE, REPORT TOMOR-ROW...
"...TO CENTRAL CITY HQ...
CENTRAL CITY!! BUT THAT'S GREAT NEWS--
WHERE ARE THEY SENDING YOU, LT?
...

"..AS THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL SECRETARY"!

SO THAT'S THE PLAN.

SORRY, COLONEL MUSTANG.

KLAK ANG

KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
I REMEMBER ITS UNUSUAL MARKINGS.
WHERE DID YOU SEE HER!?
OH YEAH, THAT CAT.
CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC?
TRUST ME, MISSY, YOU CAN'T MISS HIM. IT'S NOT EVERYDAY YOU SEE SOME-ONE WALKIN' AROUND TOWN IN FULL PLATE ARMOR.
AND I THINK HE HAD A BIG HORN THAT STUCK OUT LIKE THIS
HUH?
HEY, WASN'T THERE SOME GUY IN A BIG SUIT OF ARMOR CARRYING A CAT LIKE THIS? YESTERDAY EVENING OR SO?
A BIG SUIT OF ARMOR?
DID YOU HEAR THAT, LITTLE GIRL?
I SAW HIM EARLIER NEAR THE ABANDONED FACTORY.
KLANG
HUH? A BIG SUIT OF ARMOR?
MUWA
HA HA HA
MAY'S VERSION
HE HAD A SMALL PET BEHIND HIM.
OH!! COULD IT BE THAT THING FROM YESTERDAY!?
That monster!

THERE HE IS!!

CRACKLE

IT KIDNAPPED XIAO MEI..

I WILL NEVER FORGIVE THAT SUIT OF ARMOR !!

THAT'S HIM, ALL RIGHT !

THAT SUIT OF ARMOR !!

MONSTER! DEVIL IN A TIN LOINCLOTH !!

THAT'S THE CREEP THAT KIDNAPPED MY POOR LITTLE XIAO MEI!

AH!

!!

THAT FAT ONE...

XIAO—

WAIT.

I THINK THEY SAID IT WAS A *HOMUNCULUS.*

THEIR ABILITY TO REGENERATE MAKES THEM ALMOST IMMORTAL

YOU SHOULD NOT APPROACH IT CARELESSLY.

A HOMUNCULUS?

PST

I TOLD YOU, WE CAN'T GO IN CARELESSLY.

IT IS NOT AN EASY OPPONENT.

PST

AN IMMORTAL? THAT'S GREAT!

LET'S GO AFTER IT!

THE FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST'S YOUNGER BROTHER..

WHAT'S HE DOING WITH THAT HOMUNCULUS?

ARE THEY ALLIES?

UM..

NOW THAT I KNOW WHERE XIAO MEI IS, WHAT REASON IS THERE FOR ME TO HESITATE!?

DASH

IT'S LIKE THE SAYING GOES- "YOU MUST ENTER THE TIGER'S DEN TO OBTAIN ITS GREAT TREASURES" !!

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

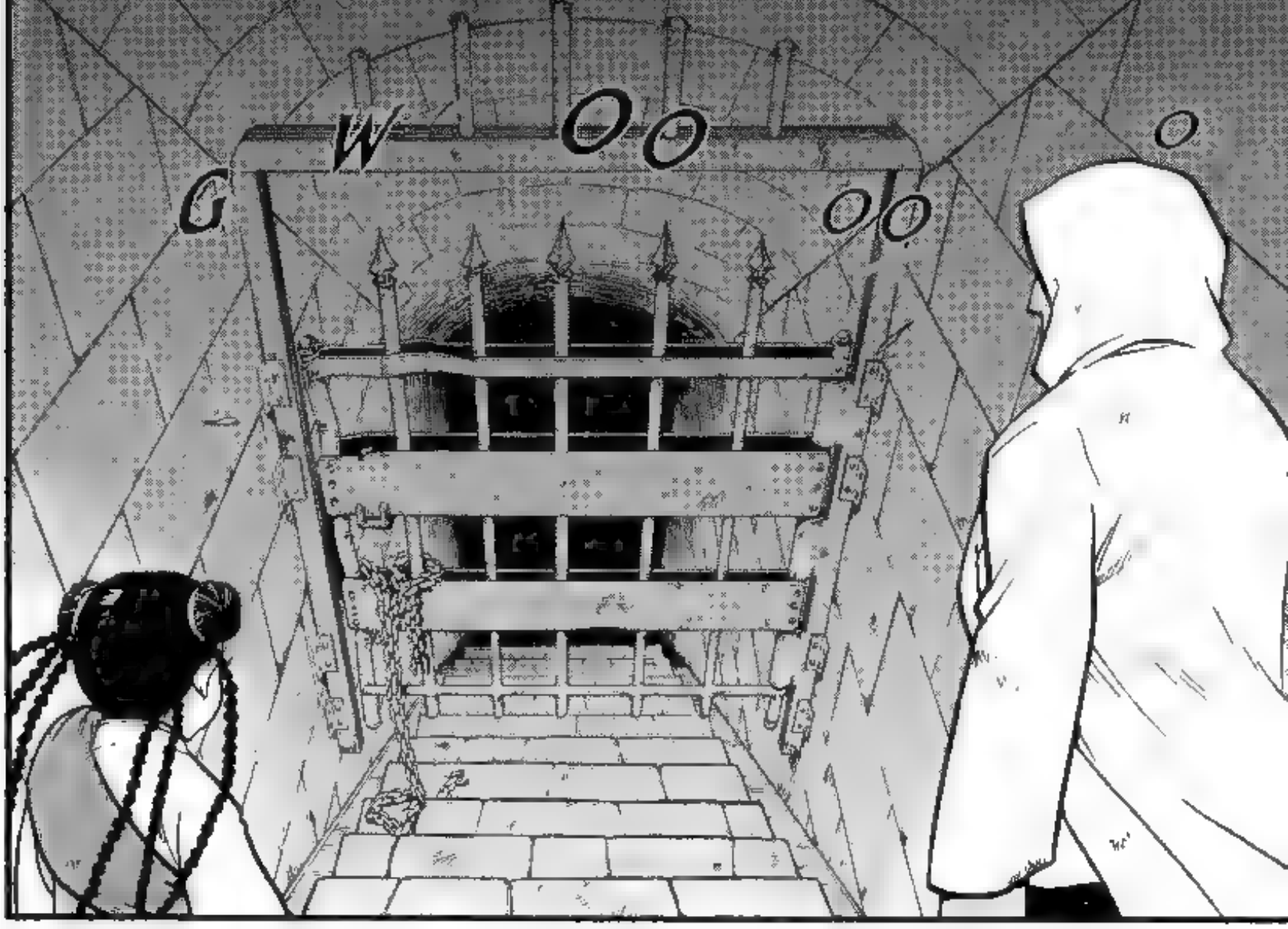
KLAK

TIME TO SWITCH SHIFTS FINALLY.

I NEED SOME SLEEP

WE'VE BEEN PUT THROUGH HELL CHASING AFTER THIS SCAR GUY.

IT'S COLD. BEEN FREEZING LATELY.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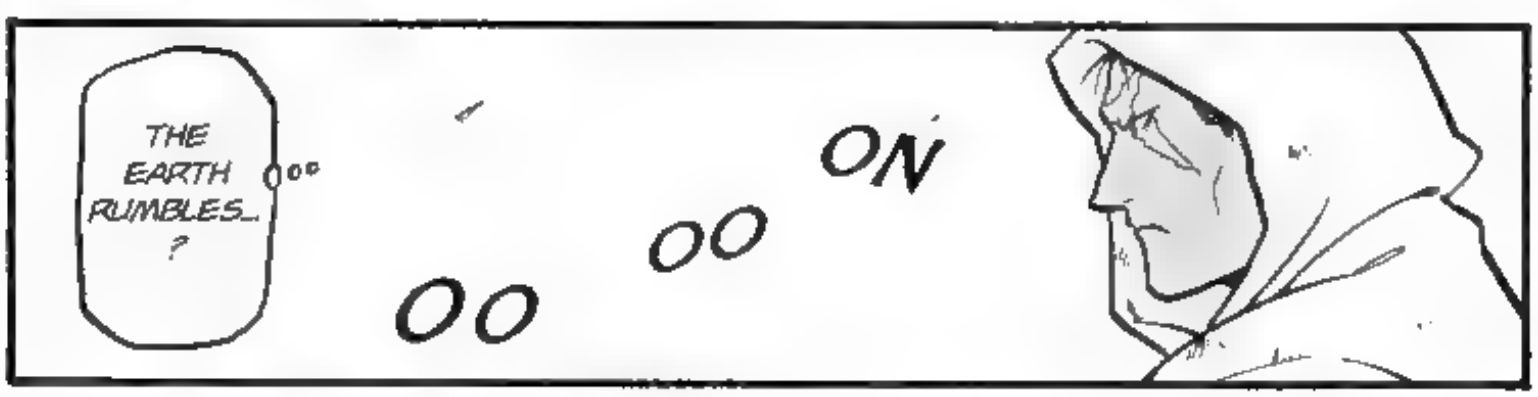

THE EARTH RUMBLES...?
OO
OO
ON

THIS... PLACE IS... STRANGE...
WHAT IS WRONG?
GHOO

A FEELING THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PUT INTO WORDS...
EVER SINCE I CAME TO THIS COUNTRY, I'VE HAD A STRANGE FEELING.

THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS CRAWLING AROUND DOWN THERE...

BUT JUST NOW, I THINK I FOUND OUT WHERE THAT FEELING'S COMING FROM.

I'M SORRY, L'IL FELLA. I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE LEFT YOU UP ON THE STREET.

HUG

I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GET ATTACKED BY A STRAY DOG OR SOME-THING.

ARE YOU COLD?

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

TRMBLE

TRMBLE

TRMBLE

THIS WAY.

GOWOON

I NEVER KNEW THERE WERE TUNNELS LIKE THESE BENEATH CENTRAL CITY.

CRUNCH

ZAWOON

HUH !?

WHOA...

GOWOON

ZAWOON

GOWOON

AIEE!

YOU WON'T BE KILLED AS LONG AS YOU'RE WITH ME.

HMM ?

WHAT COULD HAVE DONE THAT!?

HEY, GLUT-TONY !!

GUARD-IANS !?

OH, JUST THE GUARDIANS. NO NEED TO WORRY.

GRRRRRRRRR

JUST IGNORE 'EM. YEAH, THAT'S IT! IGNORE THEM!

GRRR

CLOMP

THERE'S SOME-THING UP THERE...

PROB-
LY.

YOUR FATHER WOULD KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE YOU SWALLOW, RIGHT?

IS IT *MUCH* FARTHER TO YOUR FATHER'S PLACE ?

NOT FAR. JUST AHEAD.

HE *MADE* ALL OF US.

HE CAN *MAKE* ANY-THING.

ME AND LUST..

FATHER KNOWS A LOT.

HE KNOWS EVERY-THING.

PLISH!

ZLUSH!

POK!

AND ENVY TOO!

LET ME OUT...

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

GYA HAHA HAHA

WAAH WAAH

WHAT DO YOU THINK ?

HEH HEHHEH HEH

DONT LOOK AT ME

...AT ME.

..AT ME.

IS IT NOT WONDER-FUL ??

WHY ?

SOME-BODY

DONT LOOK AT ME

SLSSSH

-AT ME.

HA HA HA! SUCH POWER!

CLAP

CAN YOU MAKE US SOME WEAP-ONS ?

LEAVE IT TO ME.

WONDER-FUL IS HARDLY THE WORD I'D CHOOSE.

ZA

BAK

SLAP

IT'S A SEA OF BLOOD.

SO THERE'S NO SHORT-AGE OF IRON

I'M PRETTY BEAT UP MYSELF.

I BROKE TWO OR THREE RIBS EARLIER.

THIS ISN'T GONNA BE EASY.

GR

RRR

CAN YOU FIGHT ?

BLAM

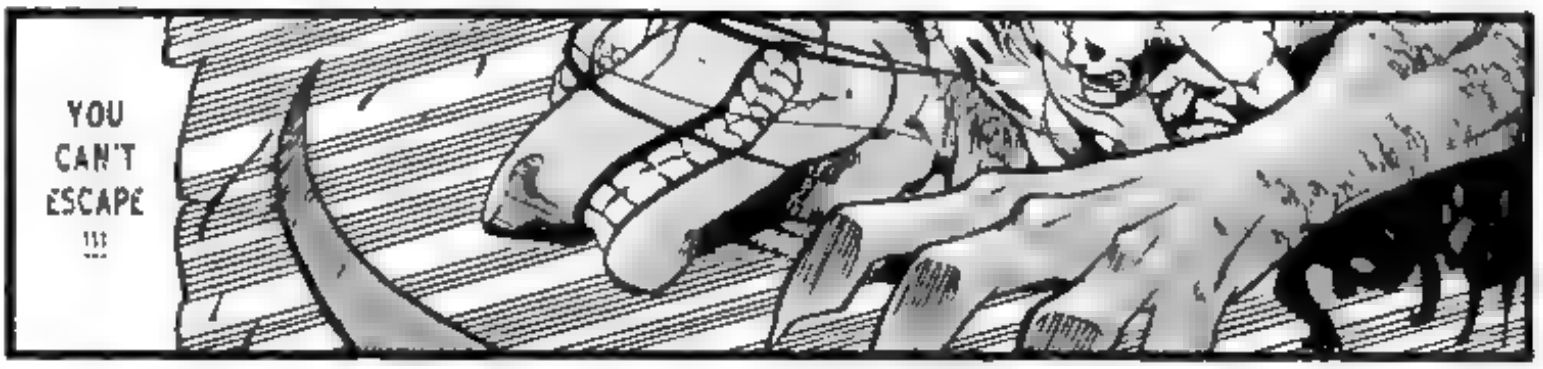
WE'LL SEE

DA

SH

LET'S GO!!

RUN INTO THE SHADOWS SO WE CAN GAIN A BETTER POSITION !!
!!
TWACK!


YOU CAN'T ESCAPE !!!

GRAB
GRAB
GRAB
NNGH!!
I AM

SLAM

SLAM

RR...GH!!

SMASH

WHY YOU...

LIN

KILL ME.

BLURP

KYA HA HAHA HA HAHA HA

PLEASE

URP...

PLEASE...

KILL ME.

HELP ME...

SHLURP

SHUNK

HA

MOM-MY

BLIP

MIX

AHHA HAHA HAHA

WAH!

BLIP

BLIP

BLIP

GYA HA HAHA HAHA HA

I WANT TO DIE.

COME CLOSER

I CAN'T KILL ME

VOOSH

GUSH!

QUIT SPACING OUT, YOU IDIOT !!

POOK

THERE ARE PEOPLE INSIDE.

THEY'RE CRYING OUT FOR *HELP* !!

*YOU'RE WRONG!! IT'S A MONSTER !!*

PEOPLE..

WHY DO YOU HESITATE !?!

POOK

POP

OOGYA WAAAH!

BLURP

THAT THING IS A MONSTER !!

DON'T LET IT FOOL YOU !!

OOGYA OOGYA

GIVE ME BACK MY CHILD

MOTHER...

KILL ME...

KILL ME...

AT ME

DON'T LOOK

MUWA HA HA HA HA

ANY BABY...

DAD-DY...

THOK

STOP...

MY SON

MY GIRL

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY POWER?

COME OVER HERE, BASTARD!

NO.

STOP IT!! SHUT UP !!

FIGHT

WOW

WOW

WOW

HELP ME.

FATHER.

SOMEBODY...

...BIG BROTHER.

LET'S PLAY.

LET'S PLAY.

BIG BROTHER.

MY LITTLE GIRL.

MUMMY

PLAYTIME'S OVER.

AHL

HURF

SWAP

KER

KLUNK

SLAM

THUT

GLORK

GLOOP

BLORP

GRAWR.

LET'S LIVE TO-GETHER.

LET'S DIE TOGETHER

HELP ME.

YOU COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND MY PAIN.

WAKE UP !!

GET UP !!

ED !!

COME !!

HEH HEH HEH HEH

GYAHA HAHA HAHA

COME TO US.

ED..

ZING

KOFF

GNASH

KILL ME

DIE WITH US.

BA-BUMP

HELP ME

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

WHAT A NICE BODY YOU HAVE

HA HA

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

JOIN US.

I WANT TO GO HOME.

I DON'T WANT TO DIE.

WAAAH !!

THAT'S... ENVY'S CORE.. IT'S THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE..

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

A RED STONE.

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

WHAT IS THAT ?

BAM

BA-BUMP

WHAT I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR..

BA-BUMP

SO CLOSE, AND YET, JUST OUT OF MY REACH.

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

MY LEFT ARM IS... DEFINITELY BROKEN.

BA-BUMP

MP!

!?

KABAM

YUCK !

IT STINKS INSIDE YOUR MOUTH.

LET ME OUT, ENVY !!

WITH ME.

SHUT UP !!

YOU AND ME.

"ZEL"

MAKE THESE THINGS SHUT UP!!

LET'S DIE TOGETHER

WHY DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND ?

WHY...

HUH ?

OPEN UP OR I'LL BUST OUT ALL YOUR TEETH "

HUFF

GASP

I SAID LET ME OUT !!

COME ON!

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

GASP

I NEED YOUR HELP, ENVY !!

I THINK I FOUND A WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE!

!!

ROOOAR!!

BA

BAM

SNAP

KRAK

GRAAAAWR!!

ZAASH!!

FWIP

ROOOAR!!

VOOSH

SHUNK

THUD

SLISH

THESE ARE SOME FUNNY LOOKIN' GUARD ANIMALS.

LEAP

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

THESE ARE NO ANIMALS THEY ARE *CHIMERA*.

PITIFUL CREATURES CREATED BY ALCHEMY.

LOOM

BZZ

ZAP

THUP THUP THUP

YELP!

THUP

KRACK

WOBBLE...

ZUU

ASH

LOOM LOOM

LOOM LOOM

FWUMP

GR
R
RR
RR
R
RR
I CAN'T...
LOOM
LOOM
LOOM
THERE'S NO END TO THESE GUYS.
..DOWN THERE.
I DON'T WANT TO GO...
THAT COULD BE A PROB-LEM,
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
MORE CHIMERA ?
I SENSE EVIL IN THAT PLACE.

IS IT...

THE GUARDIANS STIR.

SOMEONE IS COMING.

VOOM

...A PERSON?

VOOM

VOOM

VOOM

OUCH !

TUG

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN GET US OUT OF HERE ?

I THINK SO.

THAT HELPS A LOT.

IT'S JUST A TEMP-ORARY MEA-SURE

IT'S A FRAG-MENT FROM THE CSELK-CESS RUINS.

YOU *THINK* SO... ?

LOOK AT THIS.

THE REASON ALL OF THIS STUFF IS IN GLUTTONY'S STOMACH...

..IS TO HIDE THE EVIDENCE, RIGHT?

I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU BASTARDS DID AT CSELKCESS.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ENVY !?

# Chapter 53
# Signpost Of The Soul

FOR ALL I KNOW, MY PARENTS MIGHT HAVE ABANDONED OR SOLD ME BEFORE I WAS EVEN GIVEN A NAME.

I DON'T REMEMBER THE NAMES OR FACES OF MY TRUE PARENTS... I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER **MY OWN** NAME.

WHO WILL BE THE ONE TO LEAD THIS COUNTRY!

WELL NOW... COULD IT BE YOU?

AS FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER, THE MEN IN THE WHITE COATS ALWAYS WATCHED OVER US.

THEY KEPT ALL OF US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TOGETHER, TRAINING US DAY IN AND DAY OUT.

"PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE."

THAT WAS MY OTHER NAME.

I BELIEVED THAT WHOLE-HEARTEDLY AND ENDURED THE TRAINING.

I WAS GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO WOULD CONTROL THIS COUNTRY.

...POLITICAL SCIENCE, AND THE HUMANITIES...

FENCING, FIREARMS, MARTIAL ARTS...

AROUND THE TIME MY ENDURANCE AND INTELLECT HAD REACHED THEIR PEAK, WE ENTERED THE **NEXT PHASE.**

BRING THE NEXT CANDI-DATE.

NEXT

PLIP

THIS ONE FAILED AS WELL.

DRIP

BRING HIM HERE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

...I TRY TO RE-LAX.

TUG

LIE DOWN OVER THERE.

!!

YOU ARE A VERY FORTU- NATE YOUNG MAN.

THOSE CORPS- ES...

WHAT ARE YOU PLAN- NING TO DO TO ME!?

YOU'RE THE TWELFTH CANDI- DATE.

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE, HAVE YOU?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS? IT'S THE PHILOS- OPHER'S STONE.

NGH...

POIK

OR WILL IT BE ONE OF THE OTHERS.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME MY "WRATH"

...WHILE THE STONE TRIES TO TAKE OVER IT'S NEW HOST.

WHEN INJECTED, THE BODY TRIES TO REJECT THIS POWERFUL FOREIGN SUBSTANCE AT ONCE...

THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE CONTAINS THE ENERGY OF COUNTLESS SOULS.

ARRRRGH!

I WRITHED IN PAIN ON THE EDGE OF DEATH AS I STRUGGLED WITH THE PHILOSPHER'S STONE FROM WITHIN.

EVERY CANDIDATE THEY TESTED BEFORE ME DIED AN AGONIZING DEATH, THEIR BODIES TORN APART FROM WITHIN.

EVEN-TU-ALLY...

WON-DERFUL

THOSE WERE THE ONLY TWO WAYS THAT THIS HELL WOULD END.

EITHER MY BODY WOULD GIVE OUT, OR I WOULD CONQUER THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE.

MY BODY WAS ENDLESSLY DESTROYED AND REGEN-ERATED BY THE STONE.

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WILL LEAD MANKIND TO HIS DESTINY!

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN!

IT'S THE BIRTH OF A NEW TYPE OF HUMAN BEING!

WE ARE WITNESSING THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA!

FROM TODAY YOUR NAME WILL BE...

KING BRADLEY.

THE LEFT EYE OF THIS ONCE NAMELESS TEST SUBJECT HAD ROTTED AND FALLEN OUT, BUT BECAUSE OF MY NEW SUPER-HUMAN POWERS I WAS ABLE TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER MY BODY.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

LEAVE EVERYTHING TO US.

WE'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH A CAREER, PROPERTY, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU MAY NEED!

THAT'S RIGHT! WE NEED TO GIVE YOU A NAME THAT'S WORTHY OF THE LEADER OF THIS COUNTRY!

OF ALL THE SOULS THAT HAD WARRED WITHIN ME, ONLY ONE WAS LEFT. JUST ONE SOUL WHICH FELT BUT ONE EMOTION-- WRATH

WHETHER THE REMAINING SOUL WAS ONE OF THOSE TRANSMUTED INTO THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE...

...OR WHETHER IT'S MY OWN...

...I WILL NEVER KNOW.

IF YOU USED TO BE HUMAN...

...SIR ?

...ISN'T THERE A WAY FOR YOU TO LIVE AS A HUMAN BEING AGAIN, AND NOT AS A HOMUN-CULUS...

WE ARE DIFFER-ENT FROM YOU HUMANS. *SUPER-IOR.*

NOW, WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

YOU'RE SUG-GESTING I BECOME HUMAN AGAIN?

AND JUST AS YOU HUMANS TAKE PRIDE IN BEING HUMAN, WE HOMUNCULI ARE PROUD OF WHAT WE ARE.

MY STRENGTH AND EYESIGHT HAVE TRAN-SCENDED THAT OF A MERE HUMAN'S.

WE ARE NOT THE PRODUCT OF CHANCE. WE HOMUNCULI WERE CREATED FOR A *PURPOSE.*

THAT WOMAN YOU MURDERED..

...DIED WITH HER PRIDE INTACT, DIDN'T SHE?

EEEE

THIS PLACE SURE IS CREEPY...

WHOA..

YOUR FA-THER!

WAIT! I'M NOT READY TO...

I BROUGHT THE HUMAN SACRI-FICE!

FLINCH

FATHER! IT'S THE HUMAN SACRI-FICE!

UH...

UM...

LOOM

WHO ARE YOU?

..DAD
?

HM
?

THUMP

I'VE COLLECTED ALL THE FRAGMENTS IN THIS AREA.

ARE THESE ALL FROM THE CSELK-CESS RUINS?

YUP.

...BUT IT'S DIFFER-ENT.

THE FIRST TIME I SAW THIS, I THOUGHT IT WAS IDENTICAL TO THE TRANS-MUTATION CIRCLE THAT I SAW BENEATH LAB NO. 5...

THEY'RE FROM THE LARGE MURAL IN THE SHRINE.

HEY, HEY! SO, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO SHARE YOUR BIG SECRET?

...AND THE BODY IS REPRE-SENTED BY THE MURAL ITSELF...

STONE IS THE SYMBOL FOR THE PHYSICAL BODY...

MUTTER MUTTER

THE **SUN** REPRE-SENTS THE **SOUL.**

THIS MOON IS THE ALCHEMIC SYMBOL THAT REPRE-SENTS THE **SPIRIT.**

...IT'S A SUM-MONING CIRCLE FOR ***HUMAN TRANS-MUTA-TION.***

THAT MURAL FROM CSELKCESS THAT THIS SHARD IS FROM...

SO THAT'S WHEN I GOT AN IDEA.

ORDI-NARY...?

THE MISSING PIECE, WHICH WOULD SERVE AS THE BASE OF THE CIRCLE IS AN ORDINARY HUMAN BEING.

HUH?

WHAT IF I *TRANSMUTE* A *LIVING HUMAN BEING?*

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TRANSMUTE SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY DEAD.

...

YOU'LL JUST BE FORCED TO PAY THE TOLL, AND IN THE END, THE PERSON THAT WAS TRANSMUTED WON'T EVEN HAVE THE SHAPE OF A HUMAN BEING.

YOU'RE GOING TO TRANS-MUTE SOME-THING THAT ALREADY EXISTS?

UH-HUH.

USING THE LOGIC OF WATER FROM WATER AND IRON FROM IRON.

BUT IF THE ONE WHO IS TRANS-MUTED ISN'T DEAD...

WHAT IF I *TRANS-MUTED MYSELF*?

PLUS, WE'RE TALKING HUMAN TRANS-MUTATION HERE.

THERE'S A STRONG POSS-IBILITY THAT *THE PORTAL* WILL OPEN.

I'LL OPEN THE PORTAL...

...THEN YOU GUYS JUMP THROUGH IT.

IF GLUTTONY IS A ***FALSE PORTAL OF TRUTH***, THEN IF WE GO THROUGH THE ***REAL PORTAL***, MAYBE WE CAN GET BACK TO THE RIGHT DIMENSION.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU FAIL?

THERE'LL BE A ***RE-BOUND.***

A FAILED TRANS-MUTATION IS DEFLECTED BACK TOWARDS THE ONE WHO INITIATED IT.

IN THIS CASE THAT WOULD BE...

...***ME.***

NOW, THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO ASK YOU BEFORE WE GET OUT OF HERE, ENVY.

WHAT IS IT?

I'M LEAV-ING THIS UP TO YOU

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT AL-CHEMY.

THE MURAL I SAW AT CSELK-CESS...

...LOOKED MORE OR LESS LIKE *THIS.*

SHF SHF

THIS CREATES THE INTERTWINING *MALE* AND *FEMALE* DRAGONS.

UPSIDE DOWN--IN OTHER WORDS, BRINGING GOD DOWN TO EARTH...

THE SYMBOL FOR GOD THAT'S WRITTEN ABOVE THE TWO DRAGONS IS SHOWN *UPSIDE DOWN.*

THE *HERMAPH-RODITE*-- THE ALCHEMIC SYMBOL FOR A *COMPLETE LIFE FORM.*

...AND MAKING HIM ONE'S OWN.

SWP

THE PROB LEM IS...

IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL IF ALL WE'RE DOING IS TALKING ABOUT IT.

THAT'S AN AWFULLY ARROGANT CONCEPT FOR MERE HUMANS TO THINK UP.

"BRING GOD DOWN TO EARTH"?

IT SYM- BOLIZES THE *PHILOS- OPHER'S STONE.*

THE MISSING PIECE SHOWS THE SUN BEING SWAL- LOWED BY THE LION.

*THIS.*

WHEN I WENT TO THE CSELKCESS RUINS, I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT A COUNTRY WITH SUCH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY COULD BE DESTROYED IN ONE NIGHT.

AND THERE'S NOTHING IN THE LEGENDS THAT SAYS THEY EMIGRATED TO A DIFFERENT COUNTRY E THER.

THAT'S RIGHT.

..RIGHT, ENVY?

THE PHILOS- OPHER'S STONE IS MADE OF LIVING HUMAN BEINGS...

THE SPIRIT AND THE PHYSICAL BODY ARE NOTHING BUT BY- PRODUCTS.

MORE ACCURATELY, IT'S A HIGH-ENERGY SUBSTANCE THAT'S CREATED BY EXTRACTING SOULS FROM HUMAN BODIES AND CONDENSING IT.

...TURNED THE ENTIRE POPU-LATION OF CSELK-CESS...

...INTO A PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU GUYS...

IN THE END, THE ENTIRE POPU-LATION WAS FORCED INTO IT.

WITH THE ADDED INCENTIVE OF CREATING A HUGE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE.

WHO TRANS-MUTED YOUR BODY?

WAS IT YOUR "FATHER" !?

WHO WAS IT THAT WANTED TO SURPASS EVEN GOD!?

...TO RECREATE THE DESTRUCTION OF CSELKCESS IN ***THIS*** COUNTRY, ISN'T HE?

THAT PERSON IS USING YOU GUYS...

YOU GET US OUT OF HERE, AND I'LL TELL YOU.

GRIN

THIS IS WHAT YOU **REALLY** WANT, ISN'T IT?

GR RNCH

NOW, STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH, FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST.

HELP
KILL ME.
HA HA HAHA HA HA
GIVE ME A BODY
DON'T LOOK AT ME.
COME ON.
USE IT.
TAKE US HOME.
LIKE YOU SAID, YOU NEED TO PAY THE TOLL IF YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH THE PORTAL.
...CITIZENS OF CSELK-CESS, AREN'T THEY?
THESE ARE ALL...
YOU MUST'VE REALLY BUSTED HIM GOOD, RIGHT?
AND SURELY YOU KNOW BY NOW...
...THAT HE WAS ONLY ABLE TO REGENERATE BY USING THE STONE'S ENERGY ?
I HEARD THAT YOU FOUGHT GREED WHEN YOU WERE [redacted] SOUTH.
WHY DO YOU HESITATE ?

THE ONLY REASON THAT YOU WANT TO THINK OF THESE THINGS AS HUMAN IS BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BELIEVE THAT YOUR BROTHER STILL RETAINS HIS HUMANITY.

RIGHT NOW, YOUR LITTLE BROTHER EXISTS ONLY AS A SOUL, RIGHT?

I DON'T NEED YOUR PITY.

WHAT A CHILDISH NOTION.

IT DISGUSTS ME TO BE PITIED BY A LOWER LIFE FORM LIKE YOU!!

SO...

THESE PEOPLE NO LONGER HAVE THEIR OWN BODIES ?

THEY LOST THEIR BODIES AND SOULS A LONG TIME AGO IN CSELKCESS.

HA HA HA HA

THEY CAN NEVER RETURN TO THEIR BODIES. THEY CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE.

ALL THAT'S LEFT FOR THEM NOW IS TO BE ABSORBED AS ENERGY.

THESE SOULS CAN NEVER GO BACK TO BEING HUMAN.

YOU MUST THINK ABOUT THIS SCIENTIFICALLY. DON'T LET YOUR EMOTIONS GET IN THE WAY.

LIN.

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, YOU HAVE TO LET PEOPLE ON THE OUTSIDE KNOW THAT THESE GUYS ARE PLANNING TO USE THIS COUNTRY FOR SOME DARK PURPOSE.

IT'S NOT LIKE I EVEN CARE WHAT HAPPENS.

HUUUH? AMESTRIS ISN'T MY COUNTRY.

HNK HNK HNK

WHY YOU...

..ALL RIGHT.

THEN GET OUT OF THIS PLACE, NO MATTER WHAT! AND TELL THEM YOURSELF.

THERE ARE PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT WHO ARE WAITING FOR YOU IN YOUR COUNTRY, RIGHT?

...BUT I NEED TO USE YOU.

I'M SORRY...

THAT POSE HE USES WHEN HE TRANSMUTES...

I THOUGHT IT REMINDED ME OF SOMETHING.

WINCE

HERE I GO...

CLAP

IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE HE'S PRAYING...

VIP
VIP
VIP
VIP
VIP
VIP

WOOSH

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

LIN! JUMP IN !!

I'M PUTTING MY TRUST IN YOU, ALCHE-MIST!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE OPENING IT IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS.

THE SAME FEELING I HAD WHEN GLUTTONY SWALLOWED ME.

FZT

BZT

FZT

BZT

BZT

ASH

WAAH!?

BZZT

FZZT

RRR...

RRRGH...

THANK YOU!

AAAH!!

THANK YOU

...!!

FSSSH

THE BODY AND SOUL ARE CONNECTED BY THE SPIRIT.

AND A PORTION OF MY BODY IS IN FRONT OF THE PORTAL OF TRUTH.

WOO!

SLAM

THEN THERE'S NO POINT IN STRUGGLING.

THE SOUL IS THE SIGNPOST. SURRENDER MYSELF TO MY SOUL AND GO WITH THE FLOW...

TO THE PORTAL !!

HM...

BA-BUMP

SO YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO GET THAT BODY BACK?

OKAY...
I'M FINALLY HERE.

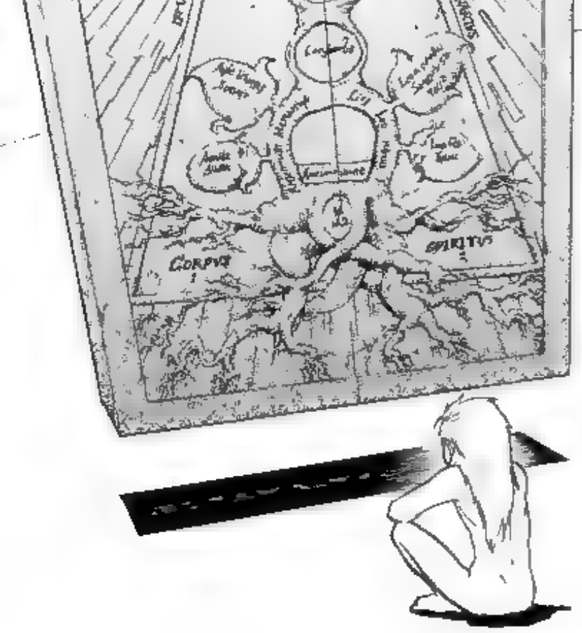
OUCH..

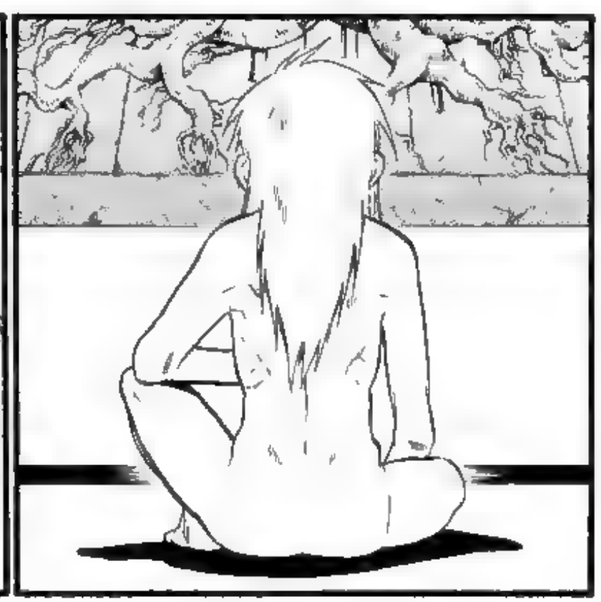
..OW..

...!?

WHY ARE THERE *TWO* PORTALS ?

...HUH ?





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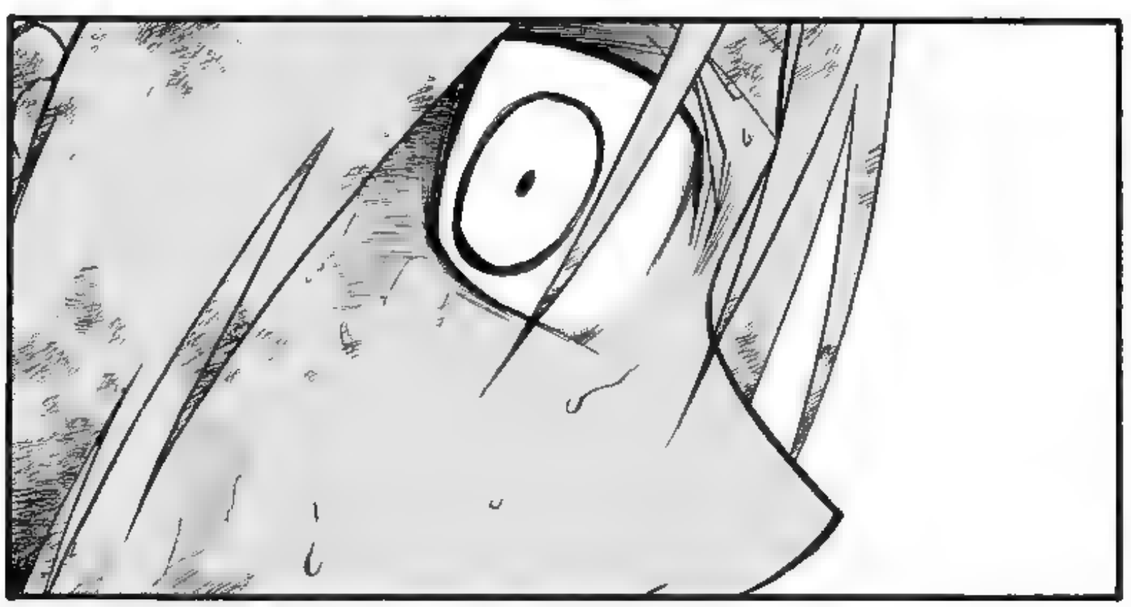

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WOOSH!

AL !!

IF WE'RE CONNECTED, THEN THAT MEANS THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT I COULD GET TO WHERE AL'S BODY IS!! I WAS RIGHT!

AL !!

THAT'S RIGHT! I HYPOTHESIZED THAT AL AND I ARE CONNECTED THROUGH OUR SOULS.

COME ON !!

GRAB

GRAB

GRAB

AL !!

YOU'RE NOT MY SOUL.

SWOOSH ZOOSH

HURRY !!

SWOOSH ZOOSH

VOOSH

I CAN'T.

...NGH!

I CAN'T GO WITH YOU.

ARRR GHHH!!

AGH...

ONE DAY SOON, I'M COMING TO GET YOU, NO MATTER WHAT!!

TUG TUG TUG

AL-PHONSE-!!

TUG

TUG

KR

EE E

E E AK

JUST YOU WAIT !!

SLAM

HUH...?

BOOF

VRIP POK VRIP POK VRIP POK

NGG...

GLORP

WHAT'S...

SPURT.

FOK VRIP FOK BA-BUMP

GGA AAA A...

FOK VRIP AAA HHA!!

VRIP

WAAAH !!
GAAA !
ZASH VISH ZASH
AHH !
ERG !
WROOOOOAAA!
VRIP
KRAK
VRIP
BAM
FWUMP
VRSH KRAK VRIP
AAAAAH
KRAK VRIP
ENVY ?
WAIT... THAT THING IS ENVY !?
RRRR RGH...
OOOOOOOOAR!!
VRSH
KRAK!
VRIP

!!

AL...?

IN AR-MOR...

BIG...

PLOP

BIG BRO-THER !!

GRAB

YANK

WE MADE IT BACK.

KOFF

WHICH MEANS...

KOFF

SHLOOP

DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT *MY* BLOOD.

ALL THAT BLOOD!! ARE YOU HURT!?!

GUSH

SNAP

GLOMP

BIG BRO-THER !!

JUST SOME BROKEN BONES. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

..BRO THER

YOU'RE A-LIVE...

BIG BRO-THER. YOU'RE ALL RIGHT

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH !!

DON'T BE SO DRA-MATIC !!

CRNCH

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT'! BIG BROTHER, BIG BROTHER, BIG BROTHER'!

OW OW OW OW'! YOUR ARMOR!! IT'S STABBING ME!!

ARRRGH !! YOU'RE BREAKING MORE OF MY BONES !!

CRNCH

SNAP SNAP

YOU'RE ALIVE...

THAT'S RIGHT...

I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE TERROR AND DESPAIR OF LOSING YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY AND BEING LEFT ALL ALONE.

HELP... SOME-BODY...

MOM...

AL...

AL-PHONSE!!

AL!

RUB

SOR-RY...

...FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.

SORRY.

...PAINFUL AND SCARY FOR YOU.

I KNOW IT WAS...

RUB RUB

.....

IS IT NIGHT-?

ARE WE UNDER-GROUND?

IT'S DARK...

WHERE ARE WE, ANYWAY?

To be continued in
**Fullmetal Alchemist** Vol. 14

# FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST 13

## SPECIAL THANKS

KEISUI TAKAEDA

SANKICHI HINODEYA

JUN TOKO

AIYABALL

NONO

BIG BROTHER KAMITONO YOICHI

MASHI MIZUTANI

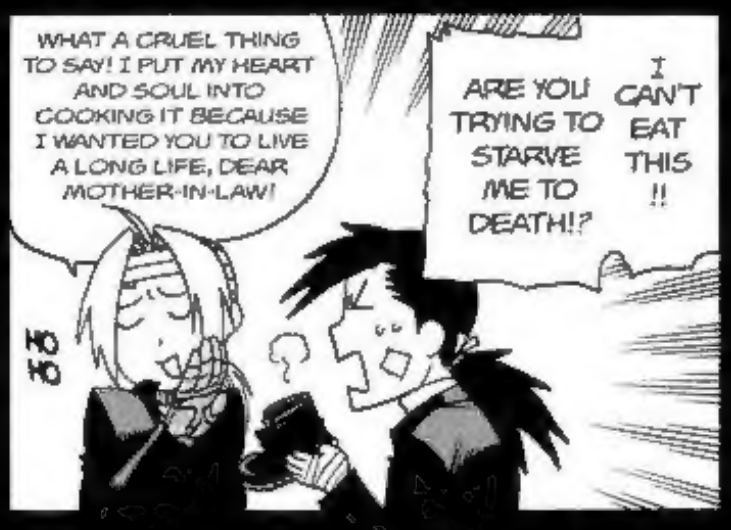
YOKO ASANEGI

RIKA SUGIYAMA

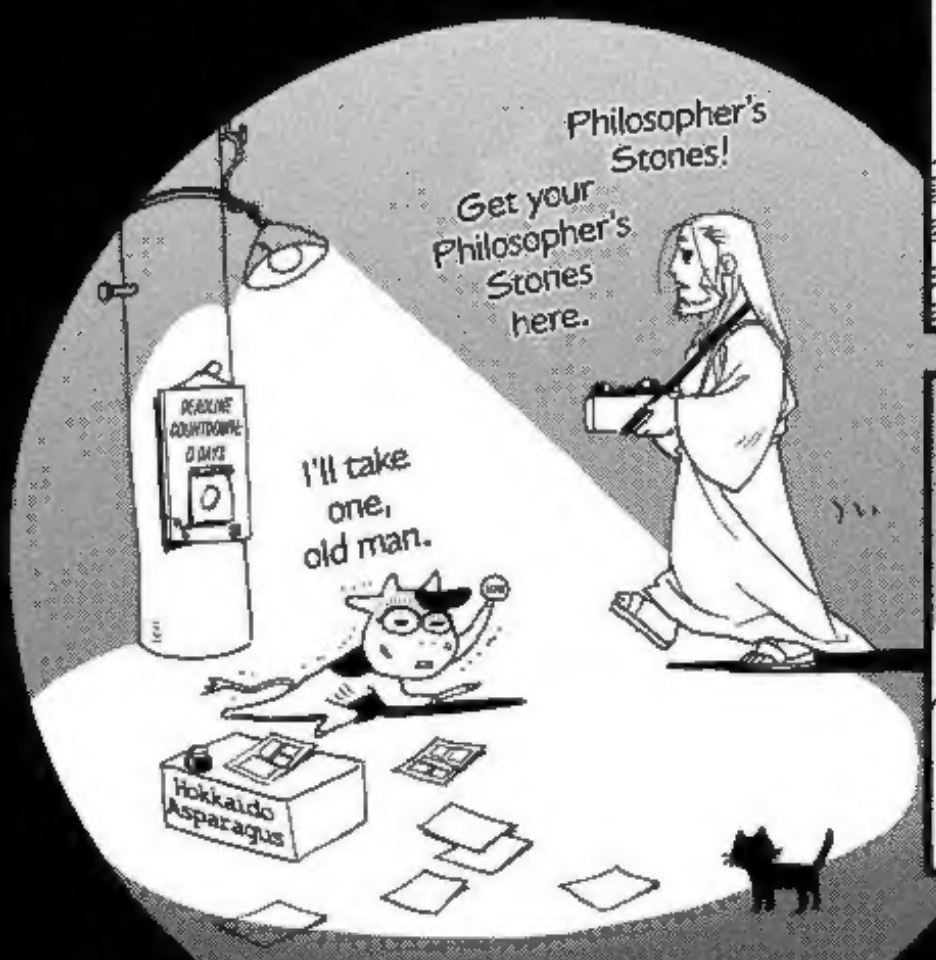
EDITOR YOICHI SHIMOMURA

AND YOU!!

## The Golden Age


WHAT A CRUEL THING TO SAY! I PUT MY HEART AND SOUL INTO COOKING IT BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO LIVE A LONG LIFE, DEAR MOTHER-IN-LAW!
ARE YOU TRYING TO STARVE ME TO DEATH!?
I CAN'T EAT THIS !!
65

HOW COULD MY SON BRING A DEVIL LIKE YOU INTO OUR FAMILY !?
SOB.. WHAT A CRUEL DAUGHTER-IN-LAW YOU ARE!!
HERE !!
IF YOU WON'T EAT WHAT I COOKED, THEN PLEASE SLURP ON SOME SEWAGE!!
HERE !!
EEEK!
SHOVE
SHOVE SHOVE SHOVE



# BEWARE OF GREED!

Fullmetal Alchemist
Preview

# FULMETAL ALCHEMIST VOL.14

DON'T SHOOT, ED!!

I'M FINE.

DON'T INTERFERE!!

!!

ATTACK!!!

LIN CAME TO AMESTRIS IN SEARCH OF POWER...

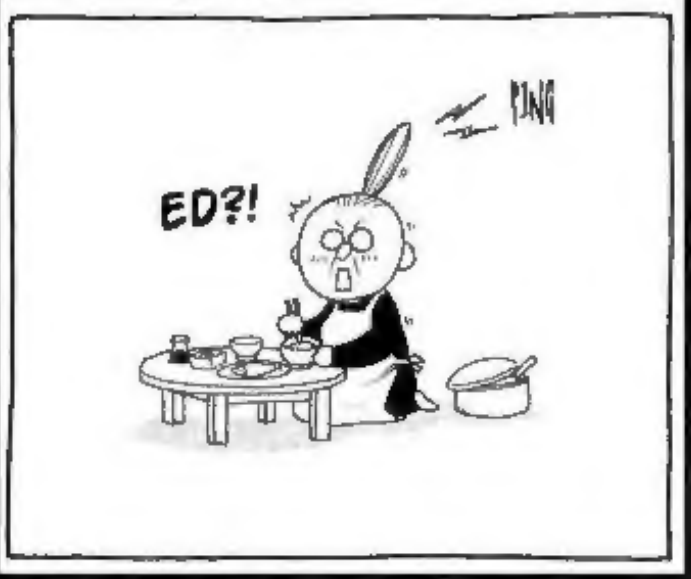
FOR HIS OWN PEOPLE...

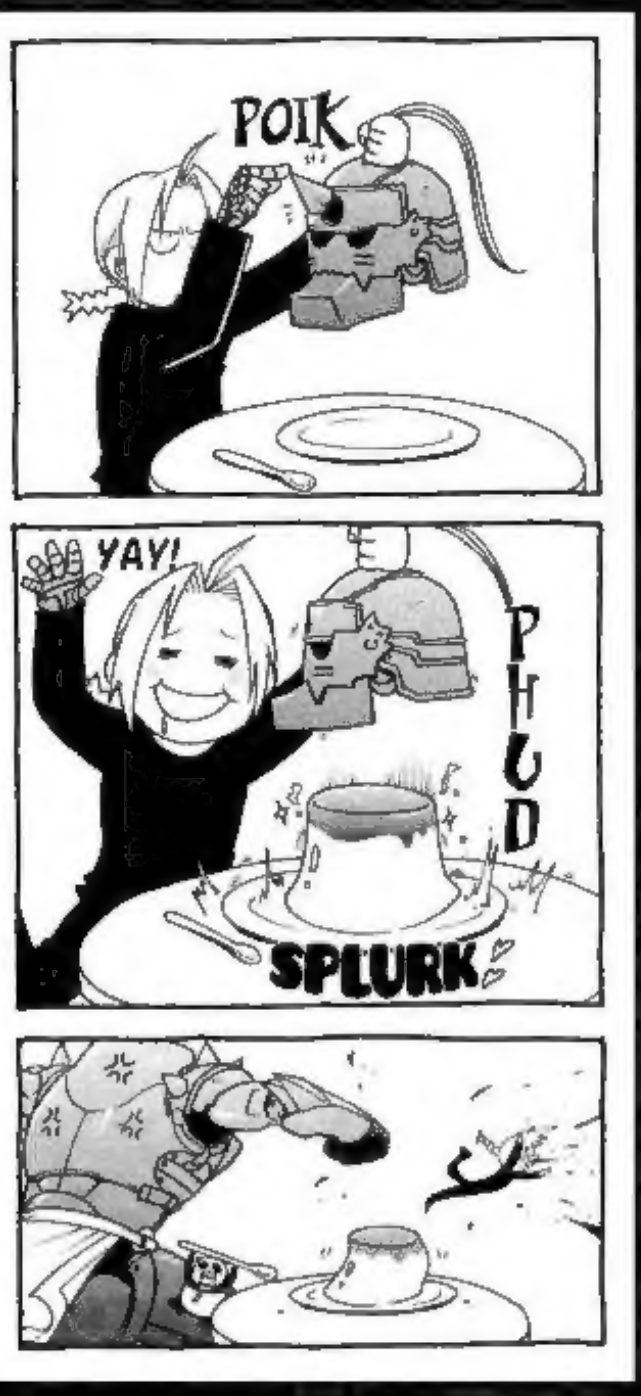
...HE'S WILLING TO RISK EVERYTHING.

THE DESIRES OF LIN, PRINCE OF THE XING EMPIRE...

GIVES RISE TO A NEW CREATION.

PLEASE READ THIS **AFTER** YOU READ CHAPTER 51 IN THIS VOLUME!





# FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST ⑬

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